

FAITH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THIRD SUNDAY OF

ADVENT

**5992 Route 378
Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
610.282.3939**

**Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Pastor
Mr. Dennis J. Duda, Organist-Director of Music**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 14, 2025**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD* – Darin Jellison

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Beloved, we come now seeking to recognize moments of delight when we feel connected to you. We bring our fragmented hearts filled with good cheer, gentle reverence, and utter amazement; we share our secret hopes, dependable comforts, and cozy moments of advent peace. Rise up within us as we cherish the divinity of all that is good.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

*** OPENING HYMN: *COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING***

(red) 250

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE
THE LOVE CANDLE**

Scripture: I John 4:9 – 11

Prayer: O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person – babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

*** CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN**

*** PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

Great Redeemer, too often we allow the idea of absolute happiness to block the existence of joy from our daily lives.

Our hopes are crushed under the weight of the world's sorrows, and our peace is disturbed by the agonies of an interconnected existence. We race toward solutions without pausing to meditate on the greater good. We lay bare the sorrows we carry without acknowledging the small delights that make the fight against injustice worthwhile. Relieve us of the pain we wear as a badge of honor, ignoring your love, even as it surrounds us. Amen.

*** THE KYRIE** (red) 333

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*** WORDS OF GRACE**

Pastor: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth your praise.

*** THE GLORIA PATRI** (red) 338

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen. Amen.*

*** WE SHARE PEACE: *PEACE ON EARTH* – Paul Baloché**

We come before you with hardships and fears

We lay down our burdens, Lord draw us near

Blind to injustice, we've turned our eyes

Lord heal our brokenness, raise us to life

Peace on earth, Peace on earth

Lord hear our prayer Your peace on earth

Peace on earth, Peace on earth

Lord hear our prayer Your peace on earth

Peace, peace, peace

**Jesus our savior. You've made us one
Walls of division torn down by love
The cross has redeemed us, all penance paid
Love through forgiveness, we have been saved
Peace on earth, Peace on earth
Lord hear our prayer, Your peace on earth
Peace on earth, Peace on earth
Lord hear our prayer, Your peace on earth
Peace, peace, peace
Peace, peace, peace
Friend of the widow. Hope to the poor
Proof to the doubting heart, end of all wars
Mercy to sinners, Light of the world
All pow'r and authority
Lord speak Your Word
Peace on earth, Peace on earth
Lord hear our prayer, Your peace on earth
Peace on earth, Peace on earth
Lord hear our prayer, Your peace on earth
Peace, peace, peace
Peace, peace, peace**

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Old Testament: Isaiah 25:1 – 30

New Testament: Luke 1:46b – 55

A MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUTH

SOME CHRISTMAS STORIES FROM OUR YOUTH

Christmas Past, Present, and Future

Opening Carol: *SILENT NIGHT*

(red) 95

Christmas Story 1: *Best Christmas in the Past* – Weiland Hite

Carol: *AWAY IN A MANGER*

(red) 93

Christmas Story 2: *Hopes for This Christmas* – Lily Adams

Carol: *HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING* (red) 94

Christmas Story 3: *Hopes for Future Christmases* – Ainsley Dill

Carol: *JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME* (red) 313

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AN ADVENT CREED:**

**We believe in one God, who is Creator,
maker of all we see and all we don't see.**

Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!

**We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.
He is one with the Creator;
the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,
Breath of God moving among us;
Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ;
our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation!**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Lord Jesus, for whose coming Zechariah, Elizabeth,
and all the faithful of Israel waited with longing two
millennia ago, hear the prayers of your hungry people
today.

We mourn in exile from your presence, conscious of the
sins that separate us from you, conscious of our
faithlessness in the task you have given us to be the lights
of the world.

Lord, we are a barren people – our faith is weak, our
hearts are cold, our churches are empty.

Lord Jesus, Hope of Israel, who once did condescend to be born of a virgin in a stable, be born among us again today, and give us the eyes to see you in your humility.

Be born among us in the preaching each Sunday that we hear and the sacrament we share.

Be born among us in small groups where we fellowship and hear you speaking to us through one another.

Be born among us in our ministries to the lost and to the needy, and in our singing and worship as we display your beauty.

Renew this church, and all your churches, with the power of your presence, with the terror and comfort of your word, with the courage to follow you on the path of love without pretense, love without measure.

(The names of specific people, places, and circumstances may be lifted up at this time)

Pastor: Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass. We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

*** OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY (red) 356**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION:**

Precious God, take these gifts in the spirit they were given, with joy and love for our siblings around the world. Let us remember that we all have times of trouble. We will each stand before you, hands clasped in prayer, begging for relief. Use what we have here to bring that relief where it is needed most.
Amen

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: *GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN* (red) 105**

*** BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

*** MEDITATION**

*** POSTLUDE**

*Would those who are able please stand.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Go Light Your World - *Chris Rice*

There is a candle in every soul
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold
There is a Spirit who brings a fire
Ignites a candle and makes His home

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
And hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
Light his own candle some other way
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to
Still holds a candle without a flame
So carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn
And hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

'Cause we are a family whose hearts are blazing
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus
Make us a beacon in darkest times

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, deceived and poor
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world

**Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world**

Welcome to Faith Church this Third Sunday in Advent. We are glad to have you worshiping with us. May our time together serve as an inspiration for the days and weeks ahead. Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads provided for you in the pews.

The altar flowers this morning are presented in memory of Rev. Carl Siegfried by his family.

Special thanks to Darin Jellison for sharing his musical talents with us.

We are glad you joined us for our Christian Education Christmas Program this morning. Be sure to stay following worship for Hot Cocoa and Christmas Cookies in Fellowship Hall.

Join us next Sunday for an encore performance of the Hill to Hill Brass Quintet! Come early to get a good seat!

Our special offering for December is The Christmas Fund. Please prayerfully consider how you can help. You'll find an insert in your bulletin and the envelopes in the pew racks. The 2026 Offering Envelopes are in the Narthex. If you don't find any in your name and would like some, please call the church office.

If you would like to send Christmas Cards to our Forget-Me-Nots there are cards in the narthex along with name and address labels.

CALENDAR

Office Hours:

Monday (Remotely), Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday – 9 – 4 pm

Today - NO Sunday School
- 9am Youth Rehearsal for CE Program
- 9:30 am Faith Singers Rehearsal
- 10:15 am Worship
- CE Christmas Program
- Hot Cocoa and Cookies Social

Monday - Sandy works remotely

Tuesday - 2 pm Faith in Stitches
- 7 pm Budget & Finance Meeting

Wednesday - 5 – 9 PM Piano Recital & Reception

Friday - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off

Sunday - 9 am Sunday School
- 9:30 & 11:30 am Faith Singers Rehearse
- 10:15 am Worship
- Hill to Hill Brass Quintet

Thanks to our volunteers!

	December 14	December 21
Head Usher:	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis
Greeter:	Becky Hite	Sue Roberts
Lay Reader:	Morrison Hite	Joan Hassler
Financial Sec:	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis
Altar Flowers:	Cindy Siegfried	Poinsettias
Sunday School:	No Sunday School	Brett & Sonya Dill



**Come, Celebrate the Advent Season with Choirs,
Brass, and Special Musical Guests!**

**December 21st – 9 am Sunday School; 10:15 am Worship
Hill to Hill Brass Quintet**

December 24th – 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**December 28th - 10:15 am Worship
No Sunday School**

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Organist/Music Director: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net**