

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH  
OF  
CHRIST**



**SECOND 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  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 7, 2025**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

**A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE**

*Almighty God, we seek relief from the unrest of our daily lives. You, who offer peace and justice in a single hand, are our redeemer. Allow us, God, to unfold in your palm. With each breath, allow us to inhale the power of your sacred word, and exhale the turmoil within.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**SENTENCES OF ADORATION**

**\* OPENING HYMN: COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS      121**

**LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT WREATH CANDLE  
THE PEACE CANDLE**

**Scripture: Isaiah 9:6 – 7**

**Prayer:** Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years  
You have given peace to your people. Help us to have  
your peace in our lives. We pray that, in this Advent  
season, we may, by what we do, show your presence to  
the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that they too  
may have peace. Amen.

**REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

**\* CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN**

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

**Gentle God, it has been too long since your people have known peace. We turn away from the ugliness hidden behind closed doors, from the ravages of war, from the famine and genocide that stalk our siblings around the world. We've lost hope, lost**

**our faith in the possibility of a small act's power to change.  
We talk and talk, all the while forgetting that we are not just  
your mouthpiece, but your hands and feet. Remind us,  
Redeemer, how to show up for justice. Teach us how to  
transform this ragged hope into peace for all.**

**\* THE KYRIE**

**750**

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**

**759**

*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 Baloche***

**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**

**MISSION MOMENT: THE CHRISTMAS FUND**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1 – 10

New Testament: Matthew 11:2 – 11

**A MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUTH**

**HYMN: *LO HOW A ROSE E'RE BLOOMING***

**127**

**SERMON: *A Just Future***

### **DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL**

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth,  
origin and destiny of us all.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ - God coming to us in the  
fragile promise of a baby yet unborn - who emerges as the**

**herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.**

**For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray:  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the Spirit of Wisdom to rest upon us.  
A spirit of understanding and knowledge. Grant us to live in harmony. God's mercy prevail.

**People:** Let us pray for God's steadfastness to gird our spirit.  
May peace prevail like lamb and wolf. Grant us to live in harmony. God's mercy prevail.

**Pastor:** Let us pray for voices crying out in the wilderness, women living in fear, children hiding. Grant all a place of harmony. God's mercy prevail.

**People:** Let us pray, repent of harm done to the innocent.  
Clear the chaff of abuse and hurt. Bear the Spirit of harmony. God's mercy prevail.

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the God of hope, joy and peace to fill all hearts. God, prepare the way. God's mercy prevail.

*(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**

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM: *SLEEP, LITTLE BABY***

#### **\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY 780**

*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:**

**God does not judge based on our insecurities, but on the  
promise rooted within each of us. Hope is as robust as ever  
when we study God's image in the mirror. Peace is not only a  
possibility but is the ultimate work of God's people. In faith, we  
rise and fall and rise again, knowing that our Redeemer will  
never stumble or disappoint. Praise be to God!**

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

#### **\* CLOSING HYMN: *ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME* 304**

#### **\* BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

#### **\* MEDITATION**

#### **\* POSTLUDE**

\*Would those who are able please stand.

**CHOIR ANTHEM: *SLEEP, LITTLE BABY* – Joseph Martin**

Sleep, little baby, all through the silent night: nothing awake thee, don't you cry. Peace be your blanket, love be your dream; Lullabye Jesus, sleep, baby, sleep. Sleep little Jesus, safe in your mother's arms; Her love will keep you from all harm. One day the wind will blow, but for now angels sing; Lullabye Jesus, sleep, baby, sleep. Child of the promise, born to redeem; The truth that you bring us is more than just a dream. Sleep, little baby, Savior sent down from high; Jesus, we need thee in our lives. God sends us his own heart to share and to keep; While we adore thee, sleep, baby, sleep.

**Welcome to Faith Church this Second 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 by Jean Hanville in memory of husband, Harry.**

**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 on Monday.**

**CALENDAR**

***Office Hours: Monday (Remotely), Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday – 9 – 4 pm***

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|----------------|--|
| <b>Today</b>   | <b>- 9:00 am Sunday School</b>                         |
|                | <b>- 9:30 &amp; 11:30 am Faith Singers in the Loft</b> |
|                | <b>- 10:15 am Worship</b>                              |
| <b>Monday</b>  | <b>- Sandy works remotely</b>                          |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>- 2 pm Faith in Stitches</b>                        |

- Friday** - **Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off**  
**Sunday** - **NO Sunday School**  
- **9:30 & 11:30 am Faith Singers in the Loft**  
- **10:15 am Worship**  
- **CE Christmas Program**

*Thanks to our volunteers!*

	<b>December 7</b>	<b>December 14</b>
Head Usher:	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis
Greeter:	Faye Tirpak	Becky Hite
Lay Reader:	Joan Hassler	Youth
Financial Sec:	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis
Altar Flowers:	Jean Hanville	Cindy Siegfried
Sunday School:	Tom & Brenda Hovis	No Sunday School



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

**December 14<sup>th</sup> - 10:15 am Worship**

**Christian Education Christmas Program**

**Hot Chocolate and Christmas Cookies following Worship**

*(Please bring Cookies to share)*

**December 21<sup>st</sup> – 9 am Sunday School; 10:15 am Worship**

**Hill to Hill Brass Quintet**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**December 28<sup>th</sup> - 10:15 am Worship**

**No Sunday School**

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