

Sunday, December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent The Lord's Day

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Dr. Timothy Valentino

Organ Voluntary
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Pat Shroff
Wade / Whitworth

Call to Worship Haggai 2:6-7 Rev. Dr. Timothy Valentino (Responsive) Faye Hipkiss

Lighting of the Advent Candle Aeryn Marks

Opening Hymn 87: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Congregation

Prayer of Adoration Rev. Dr. Timothy Valentino

Scripture Readings

The Old Testament Lesson: Numbers 13:30-14:12 Shelley Miller
The Response: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-19 Shelley Miller / Faye Hipkiss
The New Testament Lesson: Mark 13:24-37 Shelley Miller

Worship in Giving Psalm 72:10-11 Rev. Dr. Timothy Valentino

Prayer Hymn 117: Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming (v. 1) Congregation

Sermon Fear Not, Part 1: The High Cost Rev. Dr. Timothy Valentino of Fear (Numbers 13-14)

Closing Hymn 86: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus Congregation

Benediction Rev. Dr. Timothy Valentino

Organ Postlude Fantasia on "Irby" Pat Shroff
Gauntlett / Parks

Hospital Visitor This Week: Ruth Turner, 717-926-1543

Children's Church Leader Lector Shellev Miller Maureen Logan Faye Hipkiss Narthex Greeters Responder Dave & Kaye Focht Organist Pat Shroff Sound Technician Bob Long **Pianist** Shelley Miller Video Technician Andrew Valentino **Flutist** Shirley Long Lead Pastor Rev. Dr. Tim Valentino Trumpeter Mel Leedom Visitation Minister Pat Strain Trumpeter, Pianist Marcy Garman Office Administrator Maureen Logan Trumpeter, Pianist Sonva Valentino Staff Organist Pat Shroff Hymn Leader, Vocalist Maureen Logan Custodian Gloria Graybill Acolyte Aeryn Marks **Director of Buildings & Grounds** Will Robertson



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Call to Worship: Haggai 2:6-7

⁶ "This is what the LORD Almighty says:

'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

⁷I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord Almighty.

The Old Testament Lesson: Numbers 13:30-14:12

³⁰Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

¹That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ²All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. ¹¹ The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? ¹² I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."

The Response: **Psalm 80:1-7, 16-19**

¹Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might; come and save us.

³ Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

⁴How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

⁶You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

⁷ Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

¹⁶Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish.

¹⁷Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

¹⁸Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

The New Testament Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

- ²⁴"But in those days, following that distress,
- " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;
- ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

²⁶ "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

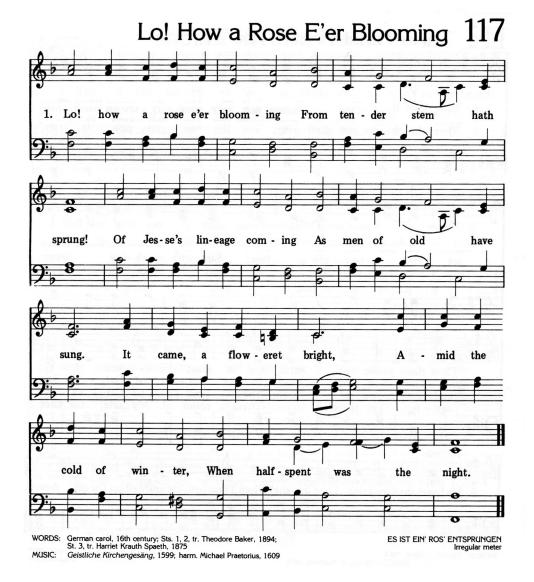
³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' "

Worship in Giving: Psalm 72:10-11

May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.

¹¹ May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.



Immanuel

A sign shall be given
A virgin will conceive
A human baby bearing
Undiminished Deity
The glory of the nations
A light for all to see
That hope for all who will embrace
His warm reality

[CHORUS]

Our God is with us And if God is with us Who could stand against us Our God is with us Immanuel

For all those who live In the shadow of death A glorious light has dawned For all those who stumble In the darkness Behold your light has come

[REPEAT CHORUS]

So what will be your answer?
Will you hear the call?
Of Him who did not spare His son
But gave him for us all
On earth there is no power
There is no depth or height
That could ever separate us
From the love of God in Christ

[REPEAT CHORUS 2X]

Emmanuel

Emmanuel Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us
Revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel

Emmanuel Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us
Revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel



New contact information for Glenn & Doris Dreibelbis:

440 East Lincoln Avenue, Apt. 264, Myerstown, PA 17067 • 717-866-3436 (H)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday: MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY Online via Zoom @ 7:00 p.m. Sundays: SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages @ 9:00 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP in Dech Chapel @ 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 11: MINISTRY COUNCIL MEETING 7 p.m. in Zinn Commons + Online via Zoom

Thursday, December 14:

WOMEN OF FAITH @ 7:00 p.m. in Zinn Commons
MEN OF ADVENTURE @ 7:00 p.m. at the Keller home

Sunday, December 17: CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 12:15 p.m. in Zinn Commons. Please sign up to let us know how many will be attending. If you plan to bring food, please add it to the sign-up sheet.

Sunday, December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7 p.m. in Dech Chapel + Online via Zoom

The list of **Sharing Cupboard** current food needs: • Snack food

- Chips Pretzels Cookies
 - Crackers Toiletries
 - · Other Regular Items

Prayer Requests: If you have any prayer requests for distribution, please send them to Pastor Tim at pastortim@christcomm.church or (484) 269-4313.

We are looking to start an active **Intercessory Prayer Team** rotation during our morning worshp service. If you would like more info on this way to serve, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Francy Lindenmuth will contact you.

Invite your friends and family to our Christmas Eve Service:

Christmas Eve invitation cards have been printed and are in narthex.

You can also print them out from church website.

Sharing Christmas Cards with Church family: the Christmas card box is now in the narthex. Drop your cards there, and they will be sorted on December 17th and available for pick up.