

Sunday, December 14, 2025

The Lord's Day • Third Sunday of Advent

Organ Voluntary & Quiet Reflection	"And the Glory of the Lord" - Handel / Chesterton	Pat Shroff
Call to Worship	Psalm 2:11-12	Rev. Tim Valentino Shelley Miller
Hymn	88: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers	Congregation
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle (Joy)		Mary Ellen Angley and Stacey Marks
Prayer of Adoration		Rev. Tim Valentino
Scripture Readings		
The Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 35:1-10	Shirley Long
The Response	Psalm 146:1-10	Shirley Long/ Shelley Miller
The New Testament Reading	James 5:7-10	Shirley Long
The Gospel Reading	Matthew 11:2-11 (Please stand)	Shirley Long
Missions Moment		Pat Strain
Worship in Giving	Psalm 68:29	Rev. Tim Valentino
Anthem	Come, Lord	Women's Ensemble
Prayer Hymn	117: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	Congregation
Prayer Led by Pastor		Rev. Tim Valentino
Hymn:	89: Jesus Came, the Heaven's Adoring	Congregation
Sermon	I Believe, Part 3: Believing Means Waiting (James 5:7-10)	Rev. Tim Valentino
Response Hymn	258: There's A Wideness in God's Mercy	Congregation
Benediction		Rev. Tim Valentino
Postlude	O Come, All Ye Faithful - Wade / Thyngerson	Pat Shroff

Hospital Visitor This Week: Faye Hipkiss, 717-813-4638

Lector	Shirley Long	Children's Church Leader	Tracy Farmer & Deb Smith
Responder	Shelley Miller	Nursery	Julie Barskey & Jennifer Danielson
Organist	Pat Shroff	Narthex Greeters	Kaye & Dave Focht
Pianist	Shelley Miller	Sound Technician	Bob Long
Flutist	Shirley Long	Video Technician	Andrew Valentino
Violin	Rebecca Sorg	Lead Pastor	Rev. Dr. Timothy Valentino
Trumpeter, Pianist, Vocalist	Marcy Garman, Sonya Valentino	Visitation Minister	Pat Strain
Guitarist	Scott Auchenbach	Counters (December)	Shirley Long, Grace Miller
Vocalist	Susie Auchenbach	Director of Buildings & Grounds	Will Robertson
Hymn Leader, Office Administrator	Maureen Logan	Acolyte	Mary Ellen Angley and Stacey Marks

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<https://christcomm.church> • Facebook @cccmyerstown

WiFi Network: ChristComm Guest • WiFi Password: Churchguest1

Call to Worship: Psalm 2:11-12

¹¹ Serve the LORD with reverent fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹² Submit to God's royal Son, or he will become angry,
and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—
 for his anger flares up in an instant.

But what joy for all who take refuge in him!

88 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your light ap - pear;
 2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; Re - plen - ish them with oil,
 3. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear!

The eve - ning is ad - van - cing, And dark - er night is near:
 And wait for your sal - va - tion—The end of earth - ly toil.
 A - rise, thou Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, And soon He draw - eth nigh;
 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near,
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle: At mid - night comes the cry.
 Go meet Him as He com - eth, With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That brings us un - to Thee.

WORDS: Laurentius Laurenti, 1700; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1854; based on Matt. 25:1-13
 MUSIC: Henry Smart, 1836

LANCASHIRE
7.6.7.6 D.

The Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 35:1-10**

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.
³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”
⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
⁸ And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
⁹ No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Response: **Psalms 146:1-10**

¹ Praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD, my soul.
² **I will praise the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**
³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.
⁴ **When their spirit departs, they return
to the ground; on that very day
their plans come to nothing.**
⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.
⁶ **He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.**
⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
**The LORD sets prisoners free,
⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
¹⁰ **The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD.**

The New Testament Lesson: **James 5:7-10**

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until
the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits
for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently
waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You
too, be patient and stand firm, because the
Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against
one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be
judged. The Judge is standing at the door!
¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example
of patience in the face of suffering, take the
prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

PLEASE STAND:

The Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 11:2-11**

² When John, who was in prison,
heard about the deeds of the Messiah,
he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are
you the one who is to come, or should
we expect someone else?”
⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report
to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The
blind receive sight, the lame walk,
those who have leprosy are cleansed,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and
the good news is proclaimed to the
poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not
stumble on account of me.”
⁷ As John's disciples were leaving,
Jesus began to speak to the crowd
about John: “What did you go out into
the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by
the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out
to see? A man dressed in fine clothes?
No, those who wear fine clothes are in
kings' palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go
out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you,
and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the
one about whom it is written:
“‘I will send my messenger
ahead of you,
who will prepare your way
before you.’”

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born
of women there has not risen anyone
greater than John the Baptist; yet
whoever is least in the kingdom of
heaven is greater than he.

Worship in Giving: **Psalms 68:29**

²⁹ Because of your temple at Jerusalem
kings will bring you gifts.

117 Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo! how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3. This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the

sprung! Of Jes-se's lin-eage com - ing As men of old have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - ery -

sung. It came, a flow - eret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and

cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 men a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - ery load.

WORDS: German carol, 16th century; Sts. 1, 2, tr. Theodore Baker, 1894;
 St. 3, tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1875
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN
 Irregular meter

89 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

1. Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2. Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy, When our hearts are
 3. Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our
 4. Je - sus comes on clouds tri - um - phant When the heav'ns shall

realms on high, Je - sus came for man's re - demp - tion, Low - ly came on
 bowed with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer To an ear - nest,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us, Glads our hearts and
 pass a - way; Je - sus comes a - gain in glo - ry, Let us then our

earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty, Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Comes to save us from de - spair, Comes to save us from de - spair,
 Cheer - ing e'en our fail - ing years, Cheer - ing e'en our fail - ing years.
 Till the dawn of end - less day, Till the dawn of end - less day.

WORDS: Godfrey Thring, 1864
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1905

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

258 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy Like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner And more grac-es for the good;
 3. For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ure of man's mind;
 4. If our love were but more sim-ple We should take Him at His word,

There's a kind-ness in His jus-tice Which is more than lib-er-ty.
 There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; There is heal-ing in His blood.
 And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1862
 MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1878

WELLESLEY
 8.7.8.7

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Christ Community Church will be holding a brief congregational meeting in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 28 right after the worship service. Authorization is needed ASAP to purchase three critical HVAC units as the outside temperatures continue to plunge to dangerous levels. The first unit conditions three rooms located near water pipes; the second unit conditions two rooms being used by our children; and the third unit conditions a large room being used by one of our renters. We know this date falls on a Sunday during many people's winter vacation, but we will try to reach a quorum since the need is urgent. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARD FOR MISSIONARIES

There are Christmas cards for our missionaries in the narthex, on the information table. Please sign them so we can let our missionaries know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks!

SHARING CUPBOARD NEEDS

- Spaghetti Sauce • Canned Fruit • Soup • Cereal
- Snack Foods • Peanut Butter • Corn • Chips & Pretzels
- Cookies & Crackers • Spaghetti • Liquid & Bar Soap
- Toothpaste • Women's Care 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

TODAY! CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER @ 12:15 p.m. in Zinn Commons

Wednesday, December 17 @ 7:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER
BOTH on-line & in Zinn Commons

Friday, December 19 FIELD TRIP THROUGH JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM • Cleona Camp Grove
 • For Christ Kid's Church students and their families • All are welcome
 • Please contact Tracy Farmer at 717-507-3028 with any questions.

Wednesday, December 24 @ 7:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 in the sanctuary. Invite a friend! (Organ prelude begins at 6:45 p.m.)

Sunday, December 28 @ 9:00 a.m. INFORMAL FELLOWSHIP & SNACKS
 in Zinn Commons

Important!

Sunday, December 28 after worship • Brief CONGREGATIONAL MEETING in sanctuary

Sunday, January 4 at 1:00 p.m. EPIPHANY PARTY at the Valentinos
 221 West Jackson Avenue, Myerstown

Monday, January 12 @ 6:30 p.m. MINISTRY COUNCIL MEETING • Zinn Commons

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Christmas Eve candlelight service at Christ Community Church is one of the highlights of our church year. Our theme this year is **"I'll Be Home for Christmas"** from **Luke 15:11-14**. The prelude begins at 6:45 p.m. and the service will be held at 7:00 p.m.

We feature traditional Christmas carols, brass, an inspiring message, and the lighting of candles during "Silent Night."

Plates for a **benevolence offering** will be available at the back of the sanctuary to **help needy families in our community**. Invite a friend to come find hope and encouragement in the good news of Jesus Christ at Christ Community Church.

We are looking for a volunteer or two to provide a **nursery** during the candlelight service. Please see **Pat Shroff** if you are willing to volunteer.

DECEMBER 28 - SPECIAL GATHERING

There will be **no Sunday school classes** on December 28, so our teachers will enjoy a much-needed day off. However, all are invited to gather in Zinn Commons at 9:00 a.m. for a time of informal fellowship and snacks. **Bring your leftover Christmas cookies and holiday treats.** Coffee and water will be made available as always.