

Lewes Presbyterian Church

Believing, growing and sharing the love of Christ

11:00 AM Worship Service

December 7, 2024



SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:2-6

SERMON SERIES: Advent

SERMON: A Great Light

Rev. Greg Wiest

Lewes Presbyterian Church
Believing, growing and sharing the love of Christ
Second Sunday of Advent

December 07, 2025

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Sarah Rose

GREETING & WELCOME
THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

Rev Greg Wiest

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Alto Section of the Choir

HYMN: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” Hymnal pg 200

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. Luke 2:9

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from Heaven’s all-gracious king;”
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
3. And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years come round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

ANTHEM

“I Saw Three Ships”

Larson

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CONFESSION

INVITATION TO SILENT CONFESSION
DECLARATION OF PARDON

Michael Salvatore

CELEBRATION

PSALTER READING: PSALM 88:1-9

Michael Salvatore

Lord, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you.

May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.

I am overwhelmed with troubles and my life draws near to death.

I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like one without strength.

I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.

You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.

Your wrath lies heavily on me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.

You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them.

I am confined and cannot escape.

STEWARDSHIP & OFFERING

Michael Salvatore

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal pg 731

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev Greg Wiest

PREPARATION

HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Hymnal pg. 203

*A great company of the heavenly hos was praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:13, 14*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-6
New International Version (NIV)

Bible pg 984

SERMON SERIES: Advent

SERMON: A Great Light

Rev. Greg Wiest

HYMN: “Let Us Break Bread Together”

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

1. Let us break bread together on our knees, on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees, on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me, on me.
2. Let us drink wine together on our knees, on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees, on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me, on me.
4. Let us praise God together on our knees, on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees, on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy if you please, if you please.

CONSECRATION

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
SINGING OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Rev. Greg Wiest

Flowers are provided by **Greg and Laura Wiest** *in memory of Bill Barnett and in honor of Alta Barnett and Phil & Barbara Wiest.*

Christmas Poinsettias:



You may order your Christmas poinsettias through December 15th. \$10 each.
Order forms are in the Welcome Center or you may order online at
[2025 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form](#)

WELCOME

To Lewes Presbyterian Church where you are always welcome.

Whether you are attending for the first time in years, or the first time as a new resident, or an LPC member, you will always find LPC as *a place for you*.

LPC is a place to worship on Sundays which offers three distinct types of worship services; 8AM, 9AM and 11AM.

LPC is a place to bring your children. Your children are welcomed by caring leaders. LPC has a nursery available during the 9AM worship services. Children's Church is offered before the 9AM sermon for ages 3-7. Adult and Children's Sunday School meet at 10AM during the school year.

LPC is a place to explore Christianity during our Sunday a.m. and weekly Bible studies. ***Welcome to LPC a place for you.***

We are glad you are here to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us. We look to God's Word as the foundation for our church and our personal lives, and we joyfully praise God as we welcome you to our church family.

If you are visiting for the first time, we invite you to complete a connection card found in the pew and put it in the offering plate as you leave worship today. We encourage you to return often and make LPC a spiritual home for you, your family and friends.

Experience LPC—we have a place for you!

Our annual Advent Luncheon will be held in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11AM worship service.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1850

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) was an American Unitarian parish minister and author who wrote a number of theological works influencing the 19th century liberal Protestants and wrote over 500 hymns. He was a pacifist and Biblical critic. Sears is primarily known as the man who penned the words to this Christmas carol. The music to this familiar carol was written by Richard Storrs Willis. Although Sears originally wrote the song as a melancholy reflection on his times while a minister in Wayland, MA, it has since become a popular Christmas carol.

Sears was the youngest of three sons and grew up on a farm in Sandisfield, MA. He attended Union College and Harvard Divinity School, graduating in 1837 and was ordained and installed as minister in Wayland, MA in 1839. In 1840 Sears began to preach as a missionary in Toledo, OH. After 7 years of preaching in Toledo, Boston and Lancaster, MA, he suffered a breakdown and returned to Wayland, MA. He wrote "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" while serving as a part-time preacher in Wayland.

Sears found Christ best presented in the Gospel of John. *The Fourth Gospel the Heart of Christ* (1872) was his most widely read work. Sears preached the equality of men and women. After the Fugitive Slave Law was passed, Sears declared from his pulpit that "when the human and the Divine law were in conflict it was the duty of all to obey the latter." On Sunday, June 16, 1856, Sears delivered a sermon which not only condemned chattel slavery as evil but also the slaveholders whom he called the "slave power." This strong argument against slavery was published and circulated as a pamphlet by Massachusetts abolitionists. This contemplative and retiring soul, who had difficulty speaking before crowds, had facets to his personality beyond quiet and meditation. "When wrong has become so organized as to make the state its permanent body," said Sears, "then the state's functions and the men holding offices do the bidding of wrong and evil, humanity dies out of it (the state) and demonism becomes its life and soul."