

**Celebration of the Epiphany
Sunday, January 4, 2026
Advent Lutheran Church**

www.adventharleysville.org

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOME STATEMENT

Advent Lutheran Church of Goschenhoppen, a welcoming community of God, believes ALL people are made in God's image and boundless love and ALL are valued equally within our congregation. We are empowered by God through faith to nurture and celebrate the vast diversity among individuals – single, married, partnered, divorced – embrace their uniqueness in all aspects of life including race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds and age. We at Advent, affirm and welcome you to share life with us and participate in God's ministry statement.

WELCOME FRIENDS AND GUESTS If you are a guest, we ask that you please sign our visitor register located on the table in the Narthex, and help yourself to one of the Welcome Bags. Please come back and worship with us.

LITURGY. Hymns can be found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book - our red hymnal in the pew rack, or placed under the chairs.

** indicates, please stand, as you are able.*

MASKS - Masks are optional. Love your neighbor.



WE LOVE CHILDREN IN WORSHIP!



- Worship activities are located in the narthex cubbies.
- A staffed nursery is available for infants through age 6. The nursery is the last door on the right.
- Children's Church (kindergarten-5th) grade begins after the children's sermon. Children will return to worship during the passing of the peace.

FOR 8:30 am: Join us for fellowship following worship! All are welcome.

*** Members, please remember to check your mailboxes today ***



Advent Lutheran Church

470 Landis Road
Harleysville, PA 19438
215-256-9941

www.adventharleysville.org

Prelude

Prepare your hearts for worship in a quiet time and space during the prelude.

GATHERING

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Friends, on this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a new year. There is nothing better about a new year than the chance to begin again.

That is exactly what we do in the Prayer of Confession.

We speak honestly with God and God surrounds us with grace. We are able to begin again.

So may we start this new year, this new season, this new week with God's grace. Let us pray.

Let us begin again.

Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again.

So today we pray—

forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks. Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call. Forgive us when fear is louder than love.

Show us how to turn our fear into action. Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world. With hope we pray, amen.

Family of Faith,
whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid,

God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks, God's love for us is boundless.

Thank you God that we are seen. We are surrounded with grace. We are sent to serve.
Amen.

***Greeting & Prayer of the Day**

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us pray...

C: God of the Stars, like the magi, we come to this place searching for you. So today, just like every day, we ask that you would remove any barricades that keep us from your Spirit. Clear out the distractions. Wipe away the doubt. Open up our hearts, and speak to us through these ancient words. And as you do, we will keep walking. As you do, we will move toward you. With hope we pray, Amen.

WORD**Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

¹ Give the king your jus- ¹ tice, O God,
and your righteousness to ¹ the king's son;

² **that he may rule your ¹ people righteously
and the ¹ poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity ¹ to the people,
and the ¹ hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- ¹ mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush ¹ the oppressor. R**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and ¹ moon endure,
from one generation ¹ to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon ¹ the mown field,
like showers that wa- ¹ ter the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the ¹ righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall ¹ be no more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the ¹ isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba ¹ offer gifts. R**

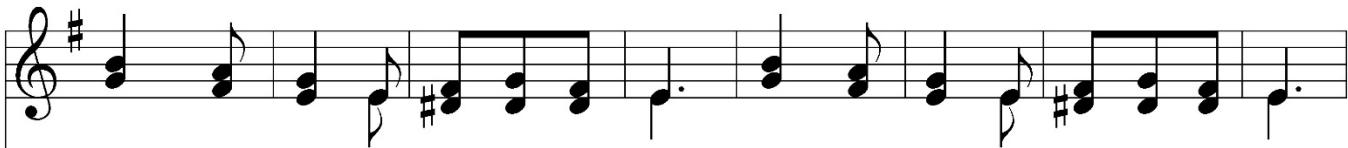
¹¹ May all kings bow ¹ down before him,
and all the nations ¹ do him service.

¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out ¹ in distress,
the oppressed, and those who ¹ have no helper.**

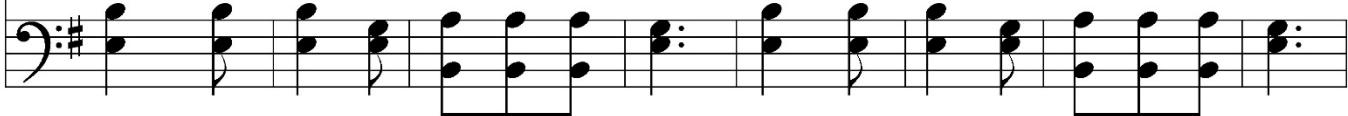
¹³ He has compassion on the low- ¹ ly and poor,
and preserves the lives ¹ of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he re- ¹ deems their lives,
and precious is their blood ¹ in his sight. R**

We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



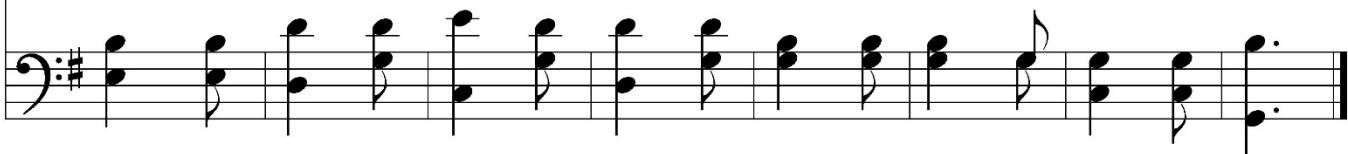
Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

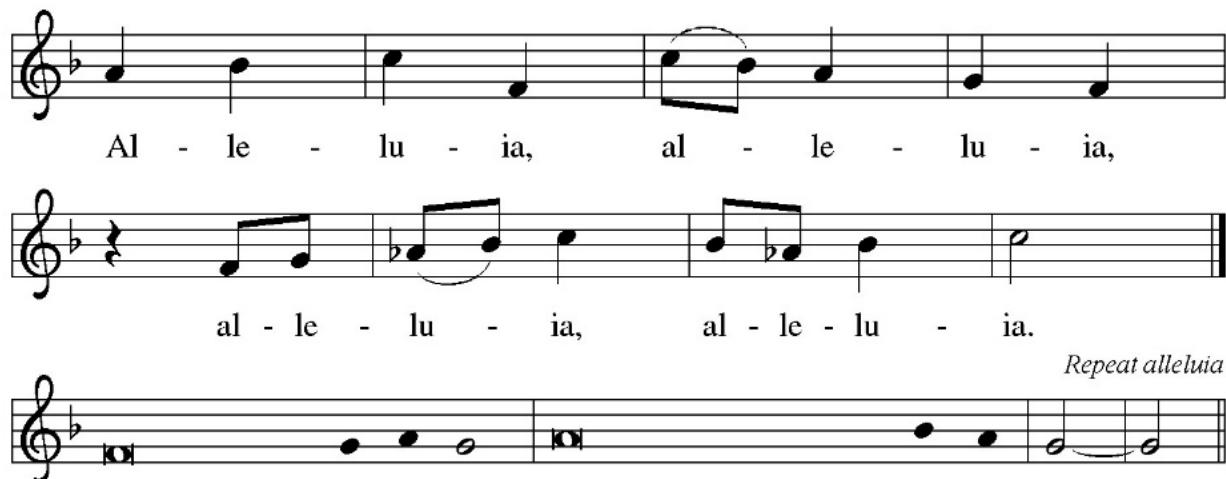
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Pastor Mark

Children ages kindergarten-5th grade are dismissed for Children's Church

Sermon

Pastor Mark

***Hymn of the Day**

O Morning Star How Fair and Bright, v.1-4

Hymn #308

***Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***The Prayers**

***The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Hymn #275

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Generous God, in times of fear we remember your promises, and in difficult times we experience your presence. Use and transform the gifts we bring. Take our offerings, and bless them to be a blessing in and through this congregation. Take this bread and wine, and bless it to be a source of your promise and presence. Take our lives, and help us to live in your hope.

C: Amen

***Communion Liturgy**

P: *Those of you worshiping with us online are invited to share communion with us. I invite you to have your bread and your wine or grape juice before you as we gather to receive communion. What we share is not a private ceremony, but an act of worship within this community gathered by a God who transcends time and space. It is “for you” – Christ promises to be there for you. Trust that. And this sacrament is also for all people; we celebrate in the assembly. We are one community in worship.*

*Dialog

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

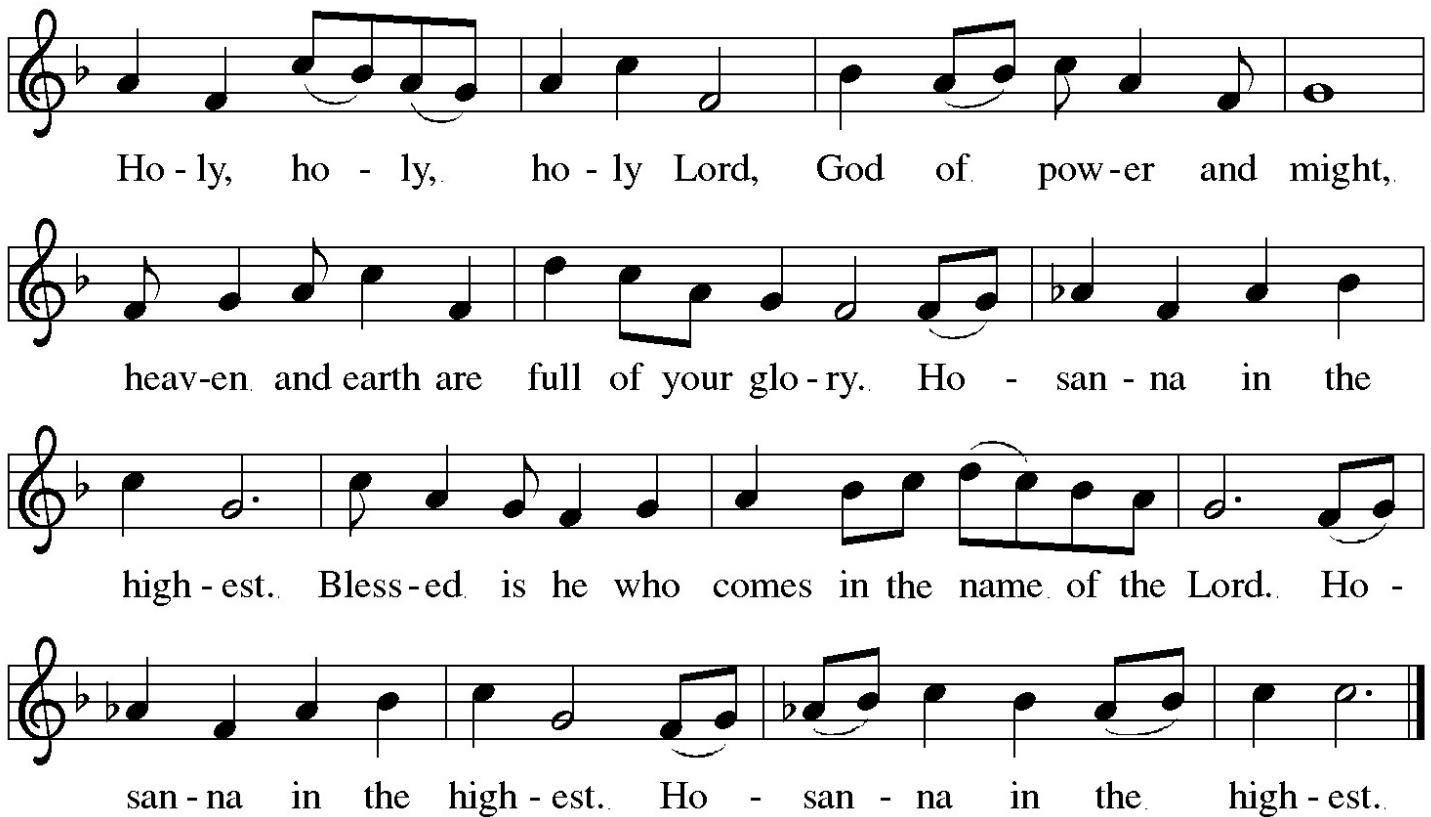
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give you thanks and praise.

*Preface It is indeed right...join their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est..

*Thanksgiving at the Table

*Lord's Prayer

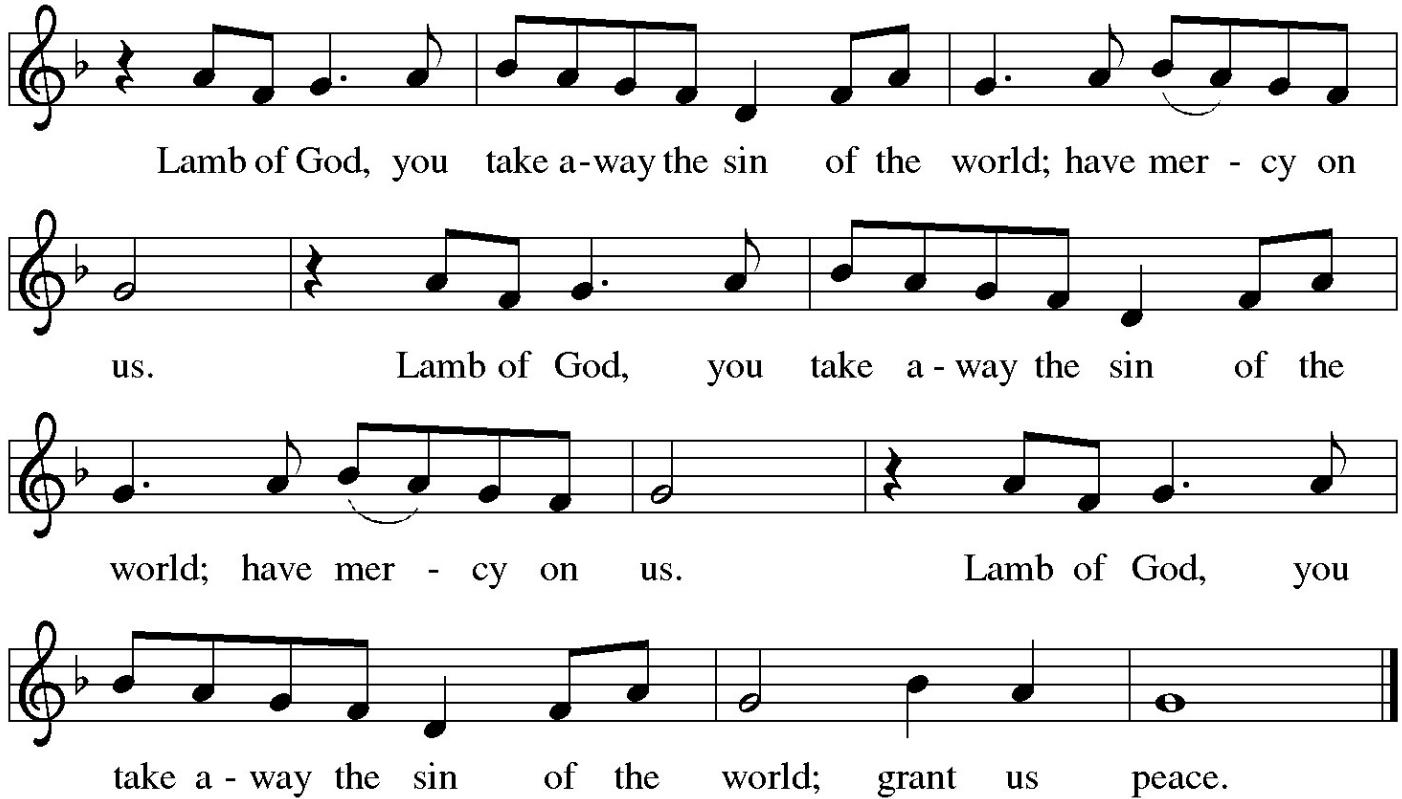
P: Lord, remember us in your reign, and teach us to pray:

**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 trespasses,**

as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come receive what God has promised. Come, not because you are perfect, but because you are forgiven.

*Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion

Those worshiping in-person are invited to come forward as the ushers direct you. You may receive bread and dip it into the wine or grape juice; or you may pick up one of the sealed wafer/grape juice packets or a sealed gluten free wafer and hear the words of promise before returning to your seat to open it.

Those worshiping online are invited to use your own bread and wine or grape juice at this time, saying to each other, or to yourself, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you." For all of us, Christ promises to be present in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice.

Children who have not yet received their first communion may come forward (in person) for a blessing, or someone in the room (worshiping online) may pause to provide that blessing, saying "Remember, God loves you" or "You are a beloved child of God."

Communion Hymn: *O Morning Star How Fair and Bright, v.5-6*

Hymn #308

Post Communion Blessing

P: Now may the body and blood of our savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Loving God, in a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray,

C: Amen.

SENDING

Announcements

***Benediction**

P: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. May the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with empower you to go in peace and *be not afraid*.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** *The First Noel*

Hymn #300

***Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Saved by God's Grace, Renewed through Word and Sacrament, We are Sent as Disciples to Share the Gospel of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Liturgy, graphics and music adapted from Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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2025 Council Members

Name and Position/Team
Amy Coll, President, Social Ministry
Don Roessler, VP, Mutual Ministry
Diana McClure, Treasurer, Finance Team
Eileen Solomon, Sec.,Worship &Music
Zach Boyer, Christian Ed
Judi Greene, Fellowship
Bruce Rhoades, Property
Helen Nace, Stewardship
Rich Lantz, Welcome Team
Carrie Johnson, Welcome Team

Ministers - All the People of Advent

Pastor - The Rev. Mark Singh-Hueter, ThePastor14@gmail.com

Minister of Music – Vincent M. Ryan, music@adventharleysville.org

Coordinator of Spiritual Development – Carrie Ryan,
cryan@adventharleysville.org

Office Administrator – Kim Long, office@adventharleysville.org

Streaming Producer – Hannah Fisher

Sexton – Susan Underkoffler

Lay Eucharist Ministers – Joan Kelley, Carrie Ryan, Diana Shearer, Erica Heck, Betty Keck,
Diana McClure, Amy Coll, Jo Gilbert