

**We believe that God will come to us;
to have the final word and that Word will be good,
to be the presence of the Spirit in us to continue God's mission,
to call new disciples to come from all the corners of the earth,
and in the last days to dry our tears and comfort our pain forever.**



LEHMAN MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PEOPLE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: **OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.**

300 SOUTH YORK ROAD, HATBORO, PA 19040
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OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE	<i>Eternal Father, Strong to Save</i>	
▲ PROCESSION OF GRATITUDE	<i>Doxology</i>	No. 95
▲ PRAYER OF GRATITUDE	<i>Prayer of Thanksgiving</i>	No. 877
CLOSING PRAYER		
THE LORD'S PRAYER		No. 895
CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00)	<i>Emmanuel, Emmanuel</i>	
▲ HYMN	<i>Blessed Be the God of Israel</i>	No. 209
▲ BLESSING THE PEOPLE		
▲ CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00)	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	
POSTLUDE	<i>Fugue in G Major</i>	M. Reger

Serving God and You Today

Preacher: The Rev. J. William Lentz, Jr. Liturgist: The Rev. Nancy M. Ludwig

Director of Music: Ruth Kuchinsky-Smith Organist: Charles de Mets

Readers: Ann Plenderleith, 8:15; Bob Beck, 11:00 a.m.

Greeters: Sally & Ed McCarty, 8:15; Bill Williams, 9:30; Judy Magee, 11:00

Head Usher: Al Zollers

Ushers: Lyn Matthew, Dick Rapson, Charlie Rumbel, 8:15
 Michael Baldi, Amy Baldi, Erika Gratzinger, Dick Schroeder, 11:00

Sound and Video: Brad Beck, Ed Travis, Rudy Cieri, Kris Borcheck

8:15 a.m. December 9, 2018 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *Melodia* M. Reger
Charles de Mets, Organist

APOSTOLIC BLESSING AND WELCOME Pastor Bill Lentz

Welcome to our service of worship. Your presence is a great joy to us. Our hope is that you'll feel welcome and that the Spirit of God will touch your soul in worship. Please sign the *Covenant of Fellowship*, sharing as much information with which you are comfortable, and then pass it down the pew for others to sign.

▲ denotes, please stand if comfortable.

▲ CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Nancy Ludwig

Pastor : Christ is coming! Be patient!

People: Valleys will be filled and mountains will tumble!

Pastor : Christ is coming! Be alert!

People: Crooked paths will straighten and rough roads will soften!

Pastor: Christ is coming! Call the watch!

People: All people, all nations, shall see the mission of God!

Pastor : Followers of Christ, listen! Get ready! We have work to do!

People: We must prepare the way of the Lord together.

▲ HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (3,5,6)* No. 211

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: John the Baptist proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People: Together, let us heed his words, turn to God, and confess our sins.

Pastor: Let us pray together from our minds and our hearts.

People: O God, we tend to live with tunnel vision. We see only what is right around us. We see our worries, to-do lists, and concerns. Let light break on our eyes. Let us see others around us. Let light break on our hearts. Let us feel joy and wonder in this holy season. Let light break on our souls. Let us walk the path of peace, justice, and mercy. Lay before us all you want us to do in your name. We ask this in Jesus' name, as his light comes to the world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

INTERLUDE

Deck Thyself, my Soul, with Gladness

Brahms

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: With peace in our hearts, we light the second candle of Advent.

Pastor: As the flame kindles the candle with light, so the light kindles the heart with peace. In the peace of Christ we may seek God's comfort. In mighty and tender ways God comes to the earth in peace to prepare our hearts to be transformed.

Reader: We remember times when we longed for God to be present to us, to this congregation, and in this world. We have sought out God, in might and in tenderness. We recall the moments when we felt God's mighty presence, God's tender mercy, and the moments when God fell silent.

Pastor: It was Jesus' favorite prophet, Isaiah, who announced God's coming to rescue the people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. Isaiah declared that God's outreach would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain paths to walk on. God would come as a Supreme Shepherd feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

People: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. Teach us to be mighty in justice and tender in compassion, as you are. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ann Plenderleith, 8:15; Bob Beck, 11:00

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible (OT) p. 889

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11:00)

An Advent Acclamation
Sanctuary Choir with Lehman Ringers
Ruth Kuchinsky-Smith, Director

Nordmeyer

PSALTER (with Response 1)

Psalm 16:5-11

No. 748

▲ ALLELUIAS

Alleluia, Alleluia (Refrain)

No. 162

▲ GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

Pew Bible (NT), p. 60

Pastor: The Gospel of Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

▲ GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father

No. 70

SERMON

Truly, Advent Flows Through John the Baptist

Pastor Bill Lentz

▲ HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

No. 206

▲ ADVENT AFFIRMATION

**We believe that God has come to us;
has brought us into being,
has given us breath and purpose,
has blessed us to be a blessing to others,
and has loved us despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us;
to be with us and not to leave us alone,
to come to us as a particular human being,
to be known to us in flesh and bone like ours,
and to give us a new birth in Christ Jesus.**