

▲ ADVENT AFFIRMATION		No. 889
OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE	<i>Comfort Ye My People</i>	Goudimel
▲ PROCESSION OF GRATITUDE	<i>Doxology</i>	No. 95
▲ PRAYER OF GRATITUDE	<i>Canticle of Thanksgiving</i>	No. 74
CLOSING PRAYER		
THE LORD'S PRAYER		No. 895
CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00)	<i>Emmanuel, Emmanuel</i>	
▲ HYMN	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	No. 217
▲ BLESSING THE PEOPLE		
▲ CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00)	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	
POSTLUDE	<i>People, Look East</i>	Besancon Carol

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: Jim Schneider, 8:15; Ann Plenderleith, 11:00 a.m.

Greeters: Dottie Montgomery, 8:15; Chris & Fang Johnson, 9:30;
Bill & Beverly Felix, 11:00

Head Usher: Al Zollers

Ushers: Lyn Matthew, Dick Rapson, Charlie Rumbel, 8:15
Steven, Melissa, Alexander & Dylan Banks, Bill Felix, Mike Kearns, 11:00

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



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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8:15 a.m. December 16, 2018 11:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *Still, Still with Thee* Mendelsohn
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.

▲ CHIMES

▲ CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Nancy Ludwig

Pastor : The God of all Wonders is drawing near!

People: We are filled with wonder as the Christ comes!

Pastor : Amazement and awe is the way to right worship of God today!

People: Something new is emerging! We feel it! We are getting ready!

▲ HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (1,2,4)* No. 213

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us confess to God, whose concern for justice and right living is unchanging.

People: It is God’s gift to us to confess and to unburden ourselves.

Pastor: Let us pray together in confidence and trust.

People: O God, we confess that we hesitate to speak or act when we see people being treated unjustly. Forgive us for the times when we have been happy to hear the gospel, but too timid to live it out fully. Forgive us for uncaring attitudes that put barriers between us and those we love, and those we find hard to love. Forgive us when our desire to live simply is defeated by selfish fears. Forgive us when we place our hope in anyone other than Christ the Savior. Heal, restore, forgive, and bless us, O God, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: May the God of peace cleanse you through and through. God’s promise is to heal our whole being in spirit, soul, and body as we await the coming of Jesus Christ. Rejoice, and give thanks as we receive forgiveness and healing in Christ’s name.

People: Amen and amen.

INTERLUDE *When Candles are Lighted* French Traditional

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: With joy in our hearts, we light the third candle of Advent.

Pastor: As the flame kindles the candle with light, so the light kindles the heart with joy. In the joy of Christ we look to John, whom you sent, to point us to your joyful light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone. We firmly believe this to be true.

Reader: We have known people who have challenged us and called us into God’s light. They seem just like John, who was called by God to prepare us for a deeper faith. We remember times when we longed for God to be present to us, to this congregation, and in this world. We recall the many ways we made a difference in people’s lives, and we remember times when all our help was to no good end.

Pastor: God sent John out from the wilderness, to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus, the true Light of the World. John called people to turn from sin and seek a more perfect way to live by faith. John baptized with a cleansing water while proclaiming the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. In the same way, we ask for God’s mercy and a joyful new beginning.

People: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to a greater, more joy-filled faith. We ask that in these days prepare us for your coming in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Jim Schneider, 8:15; Priscilla Hollerbach, 11:00

FIRST READING Isaiah 12:2-6 Pew Bible (OT) p. 641

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11:00) *The First Song of Isaiah* White
Sanctuary Choir with Disciple Singers and Orff Ensemble
Ruth Kuchinsky-Smith, Director

PSALTER (with Response 2) Psalm 46 No. 780

▲ ALLELUIAS *Alleluia, Alleluia* (Refrain) No. 162

▲ GOSPEL READING Luke 3:7-18 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 *Avoiding the Traps of Advent* Pastor Bill Lentz

▲ HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* No. 224