

OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE *Keep Awake, Be Always Ready* J. S. Bach
▲ PROCESSION OF GRATITUDE *Doxology* No. 95
▲ PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

In these moments of giving, O God, remind us of those who are Yearning to be lifted to their feet, of those who hunger for food and hope, of those who look for peace and safety. May our offerings be used to serve your people, in your holy name. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER No. 895
▲ HYMN *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* No. 240
▲ BLESSING THE PEOPLE
POSTLUDE *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* C. Wesley

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
Reader: Priscilla Hollerbach
Greeters: Belle Sheedy, 8:15; Margie Fleming, 9:30;
Carol Bixby, 11:00
Head Usher: Al Zollers
Ushers: Lyn Matthew, Dick Rapson, Charlie Rumbel, 8:15
Susan Dever, Mike Dever, Jim Iaia, Ben Iaia, 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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December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:15 a.m.

PRELUDE *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* Morning Song Tune
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 : God has come to us as a child.
People: Our hearts leap for joy!
Pastor : God is coming to us as Judge and Savior.
People: Let us be found worthy to receive him!

▲ HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful (1,2,3,4)* No. 234

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 of all mercy, we are hard-pressed to rejoice when the world around us seems in disarray and conflict. We want to be gentle, yet we can be angry and hurtful people. We want to be generous, yet we can be miserly and loveless. We want to be fair-minded, yet we easily reject those who are different. Our hope and joy is that you are our saving grace, O God. You are the forgiver of us all. We are renewed by your love. We are restored by your healing. We are reborn in your image. Bring us to great rejoicing today as we prepare for the coming of Christmas. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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

All Praise Be Yours, My God

T. Tallis

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: With love in our hearts, we light the fourth candle of Advent.

Pastor: As the flame kindles the candle with light, so the light kindles the heart with love. In the love of Christ, we hear the Angel Gabriel’s voice uttering a stupendous witness to Mary. Mary’s response awes and fills us with God’s grace and light.

Reader: We can share stories of people who have struggled this past year, yet said yes when asked. We know of times when God has filled us and our world with blessing. We too remember times of great joy when, although someone began in a struggle, God filled that difficult situation with hope, peace, joy, and love, transforming the person into an example of faith, like Mary is.

Pastor: Mary was a strong and wise young woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God’s voice, and she said yes. Her song was a request that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her womb the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the world. Let us, when given the chance, respond to God’s beckoning to us as well.

People: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your Good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadowlands of this world. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Priscilla Hollerbach

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible (OT) p. 865

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER (with Response 1)

Psalm 80:1-7

No. 801

▲ ALLELUIAS

Alleluia, Alleluia (Refrain)

No. 162

▲ GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:47-55

Pew Bible (NT), p. 57

Pastor: The Gospel of Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

▲ GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father

No. 70

SERMON

Echoes of Mary’s Song

Pastor Bill Lentz

▲ HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 230

▲ ADVENT PRAYER

No. 201