

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

*GREETING

LEADER: The coming of the Lord is near.

PEOPLE: We wait for the fulfillment of God's promise.

***SUNG RESPONSE** Wait for the Lord (Insert) Sing 2 times

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Marilyn Shertzer and Gladys Drybred

Voice A: We sing, "Joy to the world!"

Voice B: Joy to the world.

ALL: The whole world.

Voice A: The world God has in God's hands.

Voice B: The world that seems to be shrinking and spinning faster every day.

Voice A: The world of seas and mountains, rivers and streams.

Voice B: The world of honeysuckle and evergreen, morning snow and firesides.

ALL: Joy to the world!

Voice A: Joy to this world—

Voice B: To every person and to every dream.

Voice A: Joy to you.

Voice B: Joy to me.

ALL: Joy to the world—

Voice A: For love is real,

Voice B: and God is here.

Voice A: The sun will shine.

Voice B: Darkness will not overcome it.

Voice A & B: Joy to the world!

ALL: Joy to this world. Amen.

CANDLE SONG (Insert)

UNISON PRAYER

ALL: Gracious and merciful God, we fill our bodies with rich food and sweet drinks, yet we still hunger and thirst for more— we hunger for you. And so we praise you for reaching out to replenish and renew our lives. You established a new and everlasting covenant of grace in the person of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Through him we seek you and find you, O God. Through him we call on you and know that we are heard. Holy one, there is a distance between your thoughts and our thoughts, your ways and our ways, In Jesus that distance is covered by divine love. We praise and adore you, O God, as we offer this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior. Amen

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Advent Promise”

Ruth Elaine Schram

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S STILL SPEAKING VOICE

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 55:1-13

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered

the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

One: God is still speaking

ALL: Thanks be to God

HYMN Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old #108 verses 1-4

**Isaiah the prophet has written of old how god's new creation shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, The wolf shall lie down with the lamb.**

**The mountains and hills shall break forth into song, the peoples be led
forth in peace;**

**The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the sea, the sea, as the waters cover the sea.**

**Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world, and conflict turns parent
from child.**

**Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild, grow wild, the brier and the thorn
tree grow wild.**

**God, bring to fruition your will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or
destroy,**

**That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy, in joy, your people shall go forth in
joy.**

MESSAGE

God's Purpose is Joy!

Reverend Patty Dodds

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN

Joy to the World

#132

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart prepare Christ room, and heaven and nature sing, and
heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of God's righteousness and wonders of God's love, and
wonders of God's love, and wonders, wonders of God's love.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

THE OFFERING OF THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

**One: We have made our offerings in person, by mail and online. We have given
of our gifts, our energy, and our time. Let us join in prayer as we dedicate all of
these gifts to God.**

**ALL: Giving God, in this season of giving, we pause to remember that we
ourselves are the gift you most desire. Unfold our hopes, open us to
service, use us well. Magnify our giving as we rejoice in your gracious
presence among us. Bless all who give and all the ministry for which our
gifts are given that we might be a sign of your hope. In the name of the one
who was born Emmanuel. Amen**

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

***HYMN People Look East (Insert)**

COMMISSION

One: In God's glorious day the mountains and hills will burst forth in song and the trees will clap with joy.

ALL: In that day the wilderness will blossom with flowers; cypress and myrtle will grow in place of the thorn bush.

One: This will be a testimony to God's glory, an enduring reminder of God's faithfulness.

ALL: With God we will go out in joy and be led back in peace.

One: We rejoice in God's promises.

ALL: Let us gather our neighbors to feast on the abundance of God's mercy and love.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

Worship Resources:

Sarah Are | sanctifiedart.org

Moira Laidlaw, posted on Liturgies Online. <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>

TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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December 12th, 2021

Pastor, Reverend Patty Dodds

Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music

Christine Macready , Lay Reader

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

***Join us this afternoon for our outdoor Candle Lighting from 4:30 – 6:00 pm**

As the days grow shorter, the darkness might remind us of some of the sorrows and complications of life. But as people of faith, we will shine our light on Main Street as a witness to the promise of Christ's light coming into the world. There will be a time for those gathered to pray together at 5:00 pm. But you may drop in at any time to gather at the fire, to light a candle and offer a prayer of hope and blessing for yourself, your loved ones, for those in need, and for the world.

We will deliver Christmas cards to our homebound members. Please get a pack of cards (or you may use your own) and the list of names. Bring them to church by 12/19 for delivery.

Plan to attend our Christmas Eve service Friday December 24th at 7:00pm. Celebrate with special music, carols, candle lighting and the joy of the Christmas story! Invite your friends and family. Communion will be celebrated.

As an outreach service we purchased 2 DVD players for Hershey Mill Home. We would like to collect new or used DVDs to give them. (no R-rated please) You can give them to Katie Crockett. Any questions call Katie
7176847925

Our next Arts & Crafts Night will be December 9th from 6-9pm. Bring your own craft or come to chat.

December 19, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Advent Campfire at the Wittel Farm in E-town

Gather around the outdoor fire and have cookies and cocoa in the barn. Lights and decorations! We can carpool from Trinity, or you can come on your own. Sign up in the narthex.

Tree of Warmth

This year we are collecting **adult size athletic socks** for Anchor, a ministry to the unsheltered in downtown Lancaster. To learn more about this ministry or explore other ways you might support their work, go to: Anchorlanaster.org

Gift Bags for Hershey Mill Home

We will once again offer our Hershey Mill friends a Christmas gift bag filled with goodies and necessities. Please take a Tag or two (or more) from the poster in the narthex and bring those items to church by December 19. Please get the **specific items** listed so that each resident will get the same gift.

You may also make a monetary contribution to the project, put it in an envelope marked Hershey Mill.

Join us for Bible Study each Monday at 7pm by Zoom. We will discuss the scriptures for the following Sunday's sermon. The Zoom link will be emailed by Monday morning.

Please consider helping with our worship. Ushers, Lay Readers, Sound/Video Volunteers are needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Please contact Pastor Patty if you have any concerns or needs, or if you just need to talk. Phone: 570-506-0677, email: Pastor@MountvilletrinityUCC.org

Thank You for your continued support of our ministry. Checks may be mailed to the church: 450 West Main St Mountville, PA 17554, or click on the Donate button on our website