

# Myerstown United Church of Christ

The First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2019

Worship Time 10:00 am

“Prepare Him Room:” Hopeful Joy

EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS

## A Time of Reflection to Prepare for Worship

*We gather together to worship the One Who Is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God’s praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.*

### Prelude

*Wake, Awake for Night is Flying* JOHAN SEBASTIAN BACH

### Welcome & Announcements

*[will all who are able please stand]*

### \*Advent Hymn

#160 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* REJOICE, REJOICE

### \*Hopeful Joy

*\*Heaven and Nature Sing*

Gwen Sears, Cantor

Sing a new song to the Lord	<b>Sing a new song to the Lord</b>
Lift your hearts with gratitude	<b>Lift your hearts with gratitude</b>
Sing a new song to the Lord	<b>Sing a new song to the Lord</b>
Lift your hearts with gratitude	<b>Lift your hearts with gratitude</b>
And Joy,	And Joy,
Hopeful Joy	<b>Hopeful Joy</b>

Your steadfast love and faithfulness	<b>Your steadfast love and faithfulness</b>
Is ever present in our lives	<b>Is ever present in our lives</b>
Your steadfast love and faithfulness	<b>Your steadfast love and faithfulness</b>
Is ever present in our lives	<b>Is ever present in our lives</b>

With Joy, **With Joy,**  
Hopeful Joy **Hopeful Joy**

We sing	<b>We sing</b>
We sing	<b>We sing</b>
Joy to the World	<b>Joy to the World</b>
Heaven and nature sing	<b>Heaven and nature sing</b>
Joy to the World	<b>Joy to the World</b>
Heaven and nature sing	<b>Heaven and nature sing</b>
With Joy,	<b>With Joy,</b>
Hopeful Joy	<b>Hopeful Joy</b>

### The Wreath

*Opening Prayer*

Let us pray:

Holy God, you are our joy. You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life. This is our hope, that You are ever-present and constantly shifting our fear to compassion, and grinding our swords into plows.

**Let us prepare him room in our hearts this day.**

**Let us prepare him room in our church this day.**

**Let us prepare him room in the world this day for Hope. Amen.**

*\*Heaven and Nature Sing*

We sing	<b>We sing</b>
We sing	<b>We sing</b>
Joy to the World	<b>Joy to the World</b>
Heaven and nature sing	<b>Heaven and nature sing</b>
Joy to the World	<b>Joy to the World</b>
Heaven and nature sing	<b>Heaven and nature sing</b>
With Joy,	<b>With Joy,</b>
Hopeful Joy	<b>Hopeful Joy</b>

*Excerpts Psalm 98*

*[will those who are able please stand]*

### \*Hymn

#179 *Joy to the World* [verse 1 only]

ANTIOCH

**\*Offering Hopeful Joy**

Narrator: May you have hopeful joy.

**People: May you also have hopeful joy.**

RECEPTION OF GOD’S WORD

**A Time of Reflection to Prepare to Hear the Word of God**

*As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it for, we have the “joy, joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts*

**The Children’s Time to Lead Us**

I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart  
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

**Scripture**

Isaiah 2: 1-5 (CEB)

God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war. Come, house of Jacob, let’s walk by the Lord’s light.”

Romans 13: 11-14

... make sure that you don’t get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work God began when we first believed. We can’t afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don’t loiter and linger,

waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

**Message**

**The Word in Music**

#153 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

**A Time of Reflection to Prepare for Prayer**

*Connecting with our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy’s possibilities—not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.*

**Prayers of the People**

What, or who, needs to be lifted up in hope this day?  
Where have we fallen down in celebrating the beauty of each being?  
How can we find a unity where all are included, like the circle of the wreath?  
What keeps us from “making room” in our lives for God?  
What perspective needs to be shifted in order to embrace hope?  
Are we contributing a voice of hope or a voice of negativity?

**Offertory**

*The Advent Star*

Gilbert M Martin

*[will those who are able please stand]*

**\*Offertory Response**

#174 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

[with repeat]

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

**Preparing for the Eucharist**

God is with us, with us now      **God is with us, with us now**

We lift our hearts with gratitude  
It's right to give God thanks and praise

We lift our hearts with gratitude  
and Joy  
Hopeful Joy!

**We lift our hearts with gratitude  
It's right to give God thanks and  
praise**

**We lift our hearts with gratitude  
and Joy  
Hopeful Joy!**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

We sing	<b>We sing</b>
We sing	<b>We sing</b>
Joy to the World	<b>Joy to the World</b>
Heaven and nature sing	<b>Heaven and nature sing</b>
Joy to the World	<b>Joy to the World</b>
Heaven and nature sing	<b>Heaven and nature sing</b>
With Joy,	<b>With Joy,</b>
Hopeful Joy	<b>Hopeful Joy</b>

### **Words of Institution**

### **The Mystery of Our Faith**

[And so, with joy we offer ourselves in service, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.]

Christ has died, yet Christ still lives	<b>Christ has died, yet Christ still lives</b>
Christ will ever come again!	<b>Christ will ever come again!</b>
Christ has died, yet Christ still lives	<b>Christ has died, yet Christ still lives</b>
Christ will ever come again!	<b>Christ will ever come again!</b>
In joy,	<b>In joy,</b>
Hopeful Joy!	<b>Hopeful Joy!</b>

### **Prayer of Blessing**

### **Invitation to the Table**

### **Communion of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ**

*[we join together in song during the act of communing]*

### **Responding to the Sacrament**

*[will those who are able please stand]*

We sing	<b>We sing</b>
We sing	<b>We sing</b>
Joy to the World	<b>Joy to the World</b>
Heaven and nature sing	<b>Heaven and nature sing</b>
Joy to the World	<b>Joy to the World</b>
Heaven and nature sing	<b>Heaven and nature sing</b>
With Joy,	<b>With Joy,</b>
Hopeful Joy	<b>Hopeful Joy</b>

### **COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD**

### **A Time of Reflection to Go Out Into the World**

*Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place "with passion" (com-passion) for adding our love, peace, hope, and joy to the world.*

### **Going Forth**

*[will those who are able please stand]*

### **\*Closing Song**

*"We're Gonna Bring Joy to the World"*  
*[printed on cream colored card stock]*

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Response**

*"We're Gonna Bring Joy to the World"*  
*[printed on cream colored card stock]*

### **\*Personal Reflection on Hopeful Joy**

### **\*Postlude**

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

John Gottfried Walther

Acknowledgements

We welcome and thank Gwen Sears for being with us during Advent as our cantor. Born in Windgap PA, she is a sophomore at Conrad Weiser High School. Gwen enjoys playing the guitar, roller-skating, and girl scouting. Her school activities include field hockey, school choir and band, as well as performing in musicals and the Choraleers. Gwen lives with her parents and younger brother, Max.

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Herbert & Edna Hibshman Sr, Lt Richard Hibshman, Mr & Mrs Charles Netzley, and Mr & Mrs Howard Hibshman by Glenn & Jane Derr and family.

We thank Stephanie Bohannon for providing refreshments in the Gathering Area following worship. Let us continue the fellowship begun during worship in this relaxed time of community.

Liturgy and music for this service was reprinted with permission from Worship Design Studio [<http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/landingpage.cfm>]

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Prayer List

|                   |                           |                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Nancy Brown       | Russ Kahl                 | Rosene Duffy    |
| Ellen Goodyear    | Ruthann Snoke             | Joyce Mitstifer |
| Ralph Woynarowski | Jewel Fessler             | Linda Feaser    |
| Bill Gracely      | Rosalla Hollenbach        | Joanne Frantz   |
| David Mock        | Heather & Elvin Perez     | James Haines    |
| Steve Norford     | Family of Arlene Spangler | Suzanne Fritsch |

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**Worship Assistants for December 8, 2019**

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Mark Herr  
**Greeters:** Bill & Betty Arnold **Worship Leader:** Bill & Betty Arnold  
 10:00 am Service r  
**Greeters:** Ted & Carol Batdorff **Worship Leader:** Margo McQuate  
**Sound:** Paulie McQuate  
**Ushers:** Travis, Angie, Gabb, & Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick  
**Counting Team:** Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose, Charlie & Carolyn Williams  
**Advent Wreath:** Travis, Angie, Gabb, & Gavin Bicher

**Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ**

Church Office: 304 West Main Avenue, Myerstown , PA 17067-1023

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website: [myerstownuccchurch.org](http://myerstownuccchurch.org)

Kory Leppo----- 717-269-6033 ----- Council President  
 Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 ----- Elder  
 Jim Yoder----- 252-258-4268 ----- Bridge Pastor  
 Emily Frantz----- 717-383-1147 ----- Parish Administrator  
 Mark Herr----- 717-572-7734 -Family & Community Ministry Coordinator  
 Lindy Bennetch----- Financial Administrator  
 Jim Yoder----- Church Secretary  
 Elicia Frank----- Custodian

**Worship Assistants**

*Appreciation to the following who participated in today's service:*

**Organist** Mark Herr

8:00 am Service

**Open Church:** Cal Beamesderfer  
**Greeter:** Bill & Betty Arnold **Worship Leader:** Bill Arnold

10:00 am Service

**Greeter:** Sara Zeller **Sound:** Paulie McQuate  
**Worship Leaders** Charles & Carolyn Williams

**Ushers** Jeff, Holly & Hannah Rosen, Kenny Patrick

**Counting Team** Ted & Carol Batdorff, Darryl Brown, Marie Hibshman

**Communion Servers:** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Steve & Marianne Fritsch

**Advent Wreath Lighting:** Jeff, Holly, Hannah, Jared, & Anna Rosen

Stewardship Report for Sunday, November 24, 2019

General Fund	\$3,491	OCWM	\$340
Church Improvement Fund			\$75
Attendance 8 am:	18	Attendance 10 am:	45