



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

"...where worship and service don't stop with the final hymn."

Rev. Virginia M. Heimer, Pastor
Carol Steigerwalt, Director of Music

December 11, 2022 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent
Worship ~ 9:00 a.m. Sunday School ~ 10:15 a.m.

(Please turn off your cell phone.)

We Gather Again and Seek God's Presence

Prayer of Preparation

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Greeting/Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Prelude

"Emmanuel"

by Bob McGee

(All who are able, please stand.)

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 146:5-10)

L: Happy are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the one who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.

P: **He is the one who keeps every promise forever, who gives justice to the oppressed, and food to the hungry.**

L: The Lord frees the prisoners. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

P: **The Lord lifts the burdens of those bent beneath their loads. The Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath (John 1:6-8, 8-11)

L: We light the third candle of Advent. (Candles are lit)

We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone. God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true

Light of the World. John called for people to repent and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

P: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Shine on us, O God of justice, guide our path through gloom of night. Bear within us Wisdom's glory. Come to us, O Christ the Light.

Opening Hymn

*"Hark, the Glad Sound!"
(printed on the last pages of the bulletin)*

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek God's Forgiveness

Call to Confession

(silence for reflection)

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

God of Majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song of Praise

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way;
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift your name on high.**

(The congregation may be seated.)

Children's Time

We Listen for God's Word to Us

The Reading of Scripture

The First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

(The First Reading is printed on the back of the bulletin.)

(After the Gospel is announced, all who are able stand and sing:)



Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

(After the Gospel is read, sing:)



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(The congregation may be seated.)

The Sermon *“The Father’s Masterful Work of Restoration”*

Special Music *“Bethlehem Wind” by Joseph Martin*
 ~ offered by the Senior Choir

(All who are able, please stand.)

Advent Affirmation of Faith *(in unison)*

Our God is holy, awesome and full of power and sent Jesus to earth to redeem humanity. Jesus came and lived among us, dying that we might live. He returned to heaven, promising to return again one day. He will come in righteousness and holiness, bringing peace to all the earth. The Spirit of God lives with us now, moving and breathing life into our souls. We wait expectantly for our King, our Ruler, our Savior. He is coming. This we believe. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.)

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory *“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”* by Timothy Matthews

(All who are able, please stand.)

The Offertory Response *(sung)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication *(in unison)*

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth, giver of justice, hope of the afflicted and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Pastoral Prayer

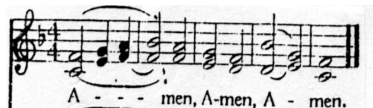
The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

***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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

(All who are able, please stand.)

Closing Hymn *“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”*
(printed on the last pages of the bulletin)

The Benediction with Three-fold “Amen”



Extinguishing of Candles/Silent Meditation

Choral Blessing

"Go Now in Peace"

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

Postlude

"Wonderful Name"

by Roger Strader

THE BULLETINS are sponsored by the Hunsicker Family in honor of daughter, sister, aunt and great-aunt, Diane Louise Hunsicker. We miss her and rejoice in the hope of eternal life. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15: 13 RSV

LECTOR: Merk Hunsicker.

BELL RINGER: Chase Moyer.

ACOLYTES: Tyler and Mason MacMillan.

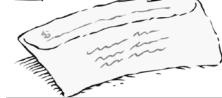
SOUND SYSTEM: Eric Schock.

DECEMBER VISITATION LIST BIRTHDAY: Larry Miller (12/9) and Doris Wolfe (12/21).



Today's Joyous Noise Offering will be designated for Wyatt Davis who is the 3 year old son of Julie and Terry Davis. In September, Wyatt was mauled by a dog, and was rushed to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. They performed surgery that night. Wyatt will need more surgery in the future due to the severity of the injury on his face. The family has had to take him down to CHOP multiple times for follow up visits. Shortly after the incident, Wyatt was diagnosed autistic as well. The family could use help with medical bills and gas as they are traveling to Philadelphia often.

Offering Envelopes



2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the church parlor. And, if you can, while you're getting yours maybe you could deliver envelopes to those who might not be able to pick them up themselves ~ this helps us to keep down mailing costs. Thank you!

Say a Prayer for:

*Loved Ones of
Lenny Zoba
Loved Ones of
Billy Mayer*

*Rev. David Knoebel
Loretta Beers
Teena Miller
David Schoch
Erin Coombe
Dorothy Miller
Sharon Tanczos
Karen Lenhart
Wesley Whiting
Billy James
Cathy Abrachinsky
Charlotte Solt
Wyatt Davis
Rita Yarnell
Dan Myers
Laurie Black
Eric Breiner
Melanie Santee
Matt Brickler
Darryl Moyer
Bruce Miller
Betty Breiner
Betty Clark
Debbie Peipher
Rose Bear
Sherry Seip
Maggie Wehr*

*Nancy Domanski
Rosanne Abrachinsky
Melinda Frey
Linda Agosti
Walter Szymanski
Logan Pribila
Bruce Wolf
Lori Fairchild
Franklin Mackes
Lamar Gerber
Thomas Miller
Mark Abrachinsky
Greg Blackall
Lana Kuehner
Lucas Milot
Travis Flannigan
Paul David
Zayden Mabey
Gary Zehner
John Kowlewski
Matthew Fox
Jessica Nehm
Aiden Kreimendahl
Mike & Bernice Delp
Ben Fink
Diane Middlecamp
Gino Lorady
Kim & Dave Carson
Marion Kupres
Louise Billman
Tony Masor
Sherry Walz*

*Shari Yediny
Richard Kistler
Darlene Kunkel
Erla Biasi
Carolyn Kunkle
Aspen Murphy
Jillian Datchko
Pastor Nathan Kennedy
Russel Stull, Jr.
Veronica Steigerwalt
Donna Roderick
Jaden Leiby
Justin Klotz
Gene McCormik
Mike Rascho
William Shirar
Amy Meixsall
Jackson Delebar
Austin Klein
Melissa Drake
Lorna Hart
Carson Barron
Caroline Lantz
Nancy Barkus*



**If you know of someone to be added or removed from the Prayer List, please contact
Pastor Ginny, Chris Miller or the church office.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Today, Sunday, December 11:

9:00 AM Worship Service
Joyous Noise Offering

10:15 AM Sunday School

2:00 PM Worship Service at St. Luke's Coaldale

Tuesday, December 13:

6:00 PM Bible Study

Wednesday, December 14:

9:00 AM Retirees Christmas Celebration

6:30 PM Bell Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 15:

6:00 PM Cherub Choir rehearsal

7:30 PM Senior Choir rehearsal

Friday, December 16:

10:30 AM Worship Service at The Palmerton

Next Sunday, December 18:

9:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School

6:00 PM Girl Scouts

**For complete details on these events, please consult your newsletter.*

Longest Night Service

The winter solstice is the longest night of the year and the beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere. It is the day that contains the most darkness. This year it falls on Wednesday, December 21. In observance of this night there will be a special service on ***Wednesday evening, December 21 at 7:00 PM*** to remind us that, yes...we do, at times, live in all kinds of darkness but Jesus is the Light that can break through all darkness that falls upon our lives. The service is meant to comfort us and to prepare us for the light that is Jesus whose birth, life, and light we celebrate on Christmas Day.

Please don't forget to fill out and turn in your covenant forms by the end of the year. The letter and forms were available in your October newsletter, and are also available on the table in the church parlor.

PLEASE NOTE: The church's financial books will be closed as of December 31, 2022. Any cash or checks received after that date will be included in the 2023 financial records.

December 4, 2022

Attendance: 91

Total Current Offering: \$ 3,052.50

Building Maintenance Fund of: \$ 182.00

Plate Offering: \$ 74.00

Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 2,315.00

Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 270.00

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Benevolence:

Total YTD: \$ 12,110.50

(2022 combined benevolence goal is \$15,000.00)

St. Peter's Church, West Penn

184 St. Peter's Road Tamaqua PA 18252 570-386-4388

Rev. Virginia M. Heimer, Pastor

For Pastoral Care or Emergency:

Pastor Heimer's Cell: 610-762-3840

Pastor Heimer will be in her office on:

Tuesdays and Wednesday from 10:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM

Thursdays from 9:00 AM ~ 1:00 PM with afternoon visitations

Friday ~ OFF; Saturday ~ SABBATH DAY

(Contact for emergencies only, please. If you have a prayer request, please email)

NOTE: Pastor Ginny will be out of the office from *December 26th through December 31st*. You may contact her in the case of a pastoral emergency. Please contact Denise Moyer, Board President at 484-695-1887 for general concerns or non-urgent requests.

Contact for our TLC Committee for Your Special Needs:

Please call Sue Conner at (570) 778-5367, or text her at jrotc@ptd.net.

Director of Music: Carol Steigerwalt

Sexton: Lou Ann Algard

Financial Secretary: Jacqueline McCandless Church Office: Elaine Koons

Church Office Phone: (570) 386-4388

Church Office Hours: Tuesday ~ Friday 10:00 AM~2:00 PM

E-mail addresses: Pastor Heimer: pastor@stpwp.com

Church Office: info@stpwp.com

Financial Secretary: financials@stpwp.com

Sunday School: spwpsundayschool@gmail.com

Web Site Address: <https://www.stpeterschurchwestpenn.com>

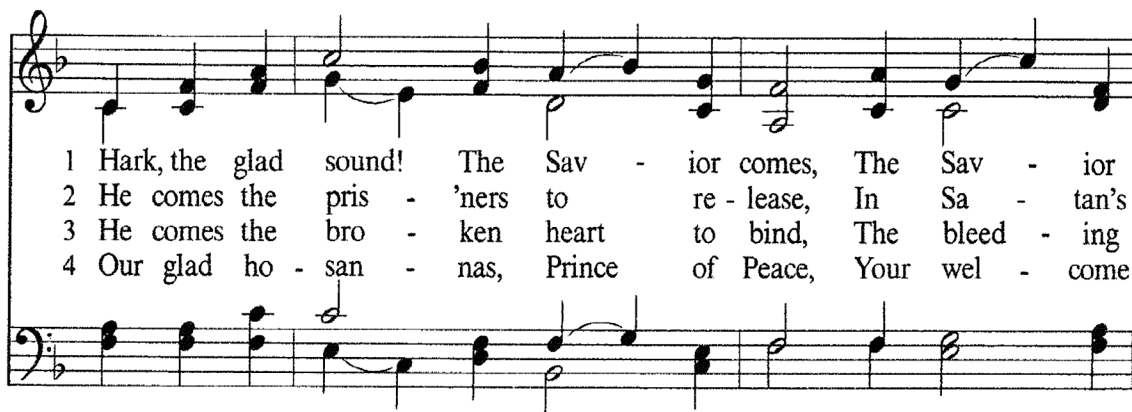
Web Master email: info@stpwp.com

Facebook: St Peter's Church of West Penn

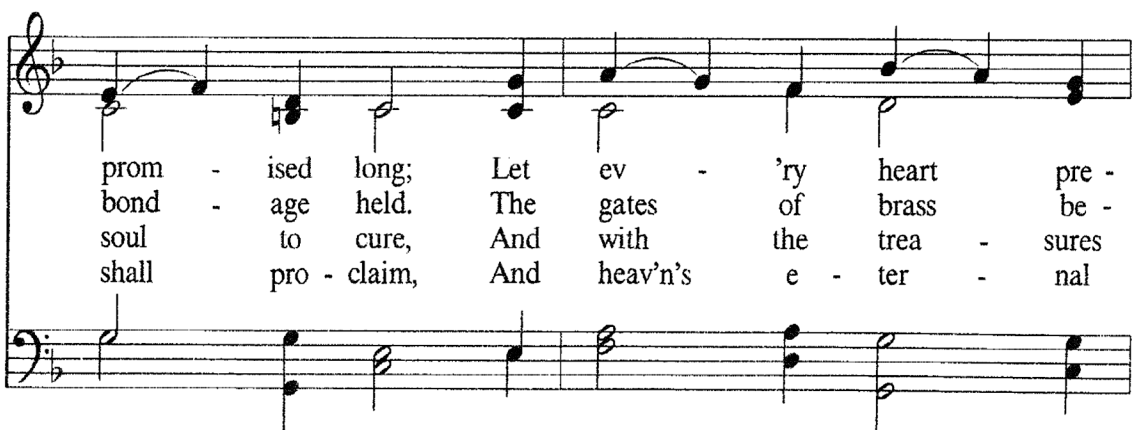
In case of inclement weather, please listen to WMGH/WLSH Radio Station, watch TV Channel 13 or Channel 69 for any change in the time or cancellation of St. Peter's Church worship schedule.

Hark, the Glad Sound!

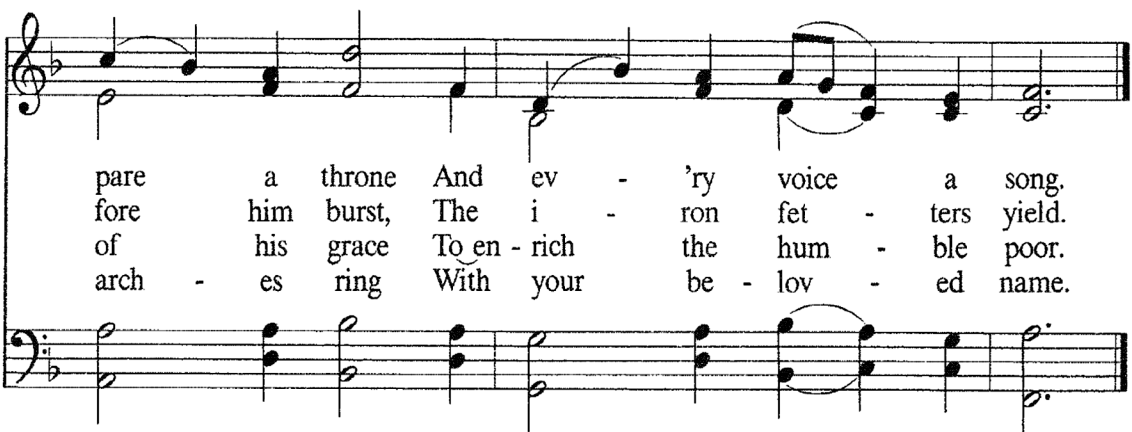
CCLI #160-1646



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CCLI #160-1646



1. On Jor-dan's banks the Bap-tist's cry An-nounc-es that the Lord is nigh;
2. Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin, Make straight the way for God with - in;



A - wake and heark-en, for he brings Glad ti - dings of the King of kings.
And let us all our hearts pre-pare For Christ to come and en - ter there. A-men.



- 3 Stretch forth thy hand, to health restore,
And make us rise to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

God hears what is not spoken and understands what is not explained, for His love doesn't work in the lips or in the mind, but in the heart.

~ Author Unknown