



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

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

Rev. Cliffert Herring, Interim Pastor

November 30, 2025 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Sunday School after Children's Time

Worship – 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.

(Please turn off your cell phone.)

Prayer of Preparation

Stir up your power, Christ Jesus, and come to us. By your love and mercy, protect us from our own sin. Awaken us to walk in your ways and your ways alone. As we await your glory, may we glorify you in our actions as well as our words. Come, Christ Jesus, come to us. Amen.

Greeting/Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Prelude

"While We Are Working, Come"

By Claire Cloningerr & Don Cason

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Hymn

"Let's Worship and Adore Him"

#247

(All who are able, please stand.)

Call to Worship and Invocation

P: Get Ready ! Get Set !

C: Advent has arrived. It is a time to prepare for the Savior's Birth.

P: Get Ready ! Get Set !

C: Let us set aside our frantic lives to get ready for the Good News that God is about to be revealed to us.

P: Get Ready ! Get Set !

C: We are ready to worship the Almighty anticipating the coming of the Christ.

P: Let us pray together:

C: Eternal and most Holy God, we praise and honor you in this Advent season. As we hear Scripture and sing hymns, draw near to us. May your light uplift our spirits as we worship you this day in the Name of the One soon to be born, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Arise the Kingdom is at Hand"

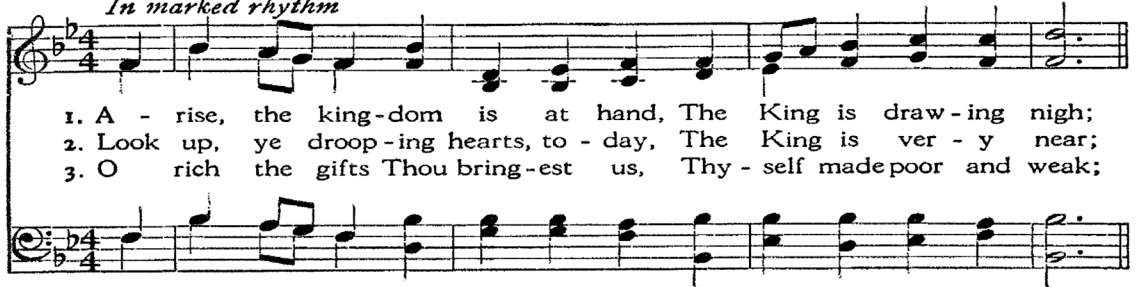
(printed on the following page.)

Arise the Kingdom Is At Hand

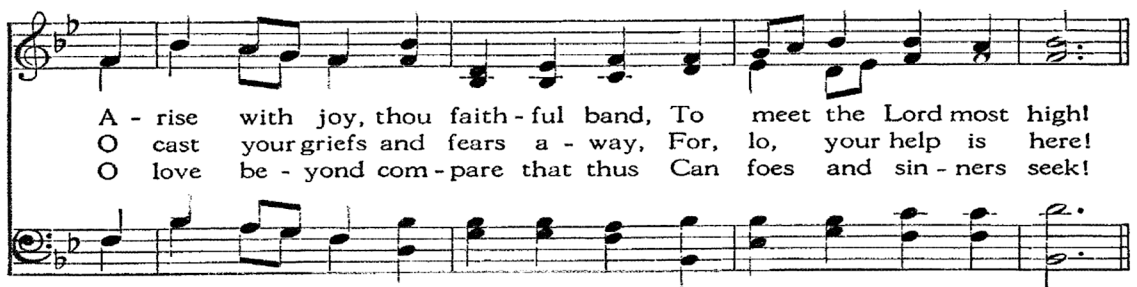
JOHANN RIST, 1651
Tr. CATHERINE WINKWORTH, 1858
In marked rhythm

C. M. D.

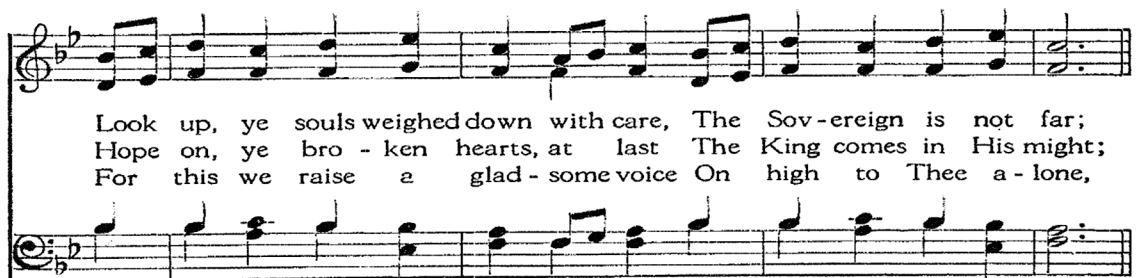
ELLACOMBE
Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Württembergischen
Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784



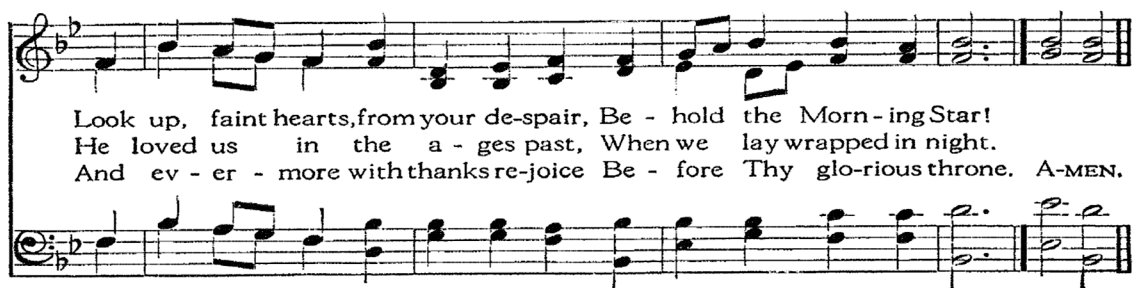
1. A - rise, the king-dom is at hand, The King is draw-ing nigh;
2. Look up, ye droop-ing hearts, to - day, The King is ver - y near;
3. O rich the gifts Thou bring-est us, Thy - self made poor and weak;



A - rise with joy, thou faith-ful band, To meet the Lord most high!
O cast your griefs and fears a - way, For, lo, your help is here!
O love be - yond com - pare that thus Can foes and sin - ners seek!



Look up, ye souls weighed down with care, The Sov-ereign is not far;
Hope on, ye bro - ken hearts, at last The King comes in His might;
For this we raise a glad - some voice On high to Thee a - lone,



Look up, faint hearts, from your de-spair, Be - hold the Morn-ing Star!
He loved us in the a - ges past, When we lay wrapped in night.
And ev - er - more with thanks re-joyce Be - fore Thy glo-rious throne. A-MEN.

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek God's Forgiveness

Call to Confession and Confession of Sin

P: Before we can truly worship, we should clear out the clutter, the guilt, the fear and doubt that separate us from Our Creator. Let us confess our sins first in silence:

(A Time for Silent Reflection)

All: O Creator, promise for the world, hear our prayers during this time of waiting. We hear your call to journey toward the light, and yet we stumble. Our journey toward your promise of Christ's coming is filled with doubt, pain and often despair that there is meaning in the waiting. Our losses, our worries overtake us, so that we dwell in darkness rather than moving toward the light.

Create in us the thread of hope that pulls us forward from promise to the miracle of new life. Create in us a clean spirit so that our journey is no longer weary but filled with the energy of adventure! As the Christ child comes, so we, too, come back to you this day. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: Hear now the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all that repent and believe. Through our heart-felt confession and our faith in the Christ, our sins are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song of Praise *(sung)*

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 Passing of the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And, also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Children's Time

***Children dismissed for Sunday School.*

Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Hope

L: On this first Sunday in Advent, we are reminded of the promise made by the prophets that God's Glory will be revealed to all humanity. Hear the Word of the Lord as it is recorded in Isaiah 60: 2
"For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the people; But the Lord will arise upon you and his glory will appear over you."
We light this candle of hope to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. This light begins to dispel the darkness of despair, giving us hope.

Let us pray together:

All: **O God, we thank you that Jesus brought the light of your love into the world. We praise you that you still bring hope to us today. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ into our hearts and lives as we strive to become people of hope. Amen.**

The Reading of Scripture

The Second Reading

Romans 13: 11-14

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 24: 36-44

(The Second Reading and The Gospel are 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.)

Special Music

*"Light An Advent Candle" by Becki Slagle Mayo
~offered by The Senior Choir*

The Sermon *A State of Readiness*

Affirmation of Faith *(in unison)*

(The Apostle's Creed)

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory *"As the Deer Pants for Water, So My Soul Pants for You"*

by Psalm 42:1 by Martin Nystrom

(All who are able, please stand.)

The Offertory Response *(sung)*

*We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone –
A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.*

The Offertory Prayer *(in unison)*

Generous God, the candle of hope has been lit. We dedicate our offerings to the work of your church worldwide that your light and hope may brighten our world in Jesus Name. 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.
And 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.)

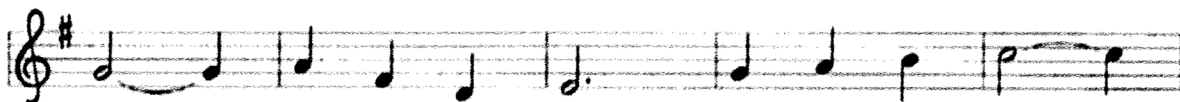
Closing Hymn

"Christ Be Our Light"

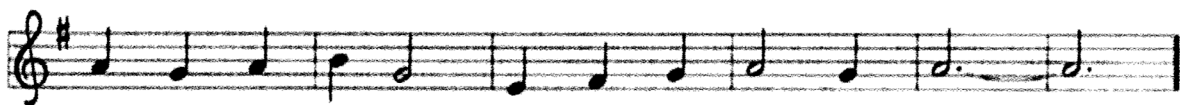
CCLI #160-1646



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



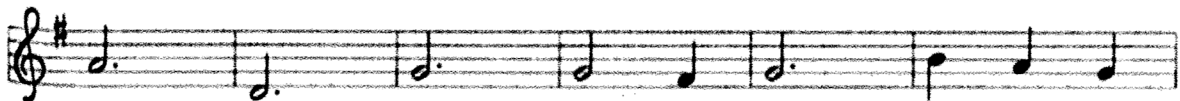
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



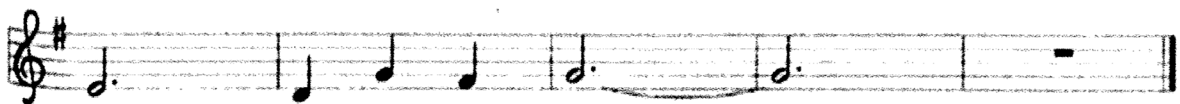
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

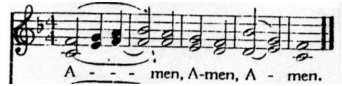


dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

The Benediction with Three-fold “Amen”



Extinguishing of Candles/Silent Meditation

Choral Blessing *(sung)*

(Tune: “Morning Has Broken”)

**New life has bloomed here, God’s love has warmed us;
Now the world calls us to spread that love.
God’s peace go with you, may it sustain you,
And bring us together to praise God again.**

Postlude

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

by Rusty Edwards & John Wyeth



THE ALTAR FLOWERS *are dedicated in thanksgiving to God for all our blessings. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thessalonians 5:18*

LECTOR: *Marsha Thomas.*

SOUND SYSTEM: *Anthony Thomas.*

LAST WEEK’S BIRTHDAY OFFERINGS *received from Randy Miller and Elaine Parsons.*

CANDIDATE FOR PASTOR OF ST. PETER’S CHURCH ANNOUNCED

The Search Committee has selected Joshua Nemeth as a candidate for Pastor of St. Peter’s. Joshua is a dedicated and compassionate pastor with over six years of pastoral leadership experience. A letter detailing his credentials was sent out to the members of the church. We ask that you read that letter carefully.

Everyone is invited to a **MEET AND GREET** on **Friday, December 12th** from 6 to 8 PM in the church fellowship hall where you will have an opportunity to meet with Pastor Joshua and his family, ask questions, and share in fellowship and some light refreshments.

A **TRIAL SERMON AND CONGREGATIONAL VOTE** will be held on **Sunday, December 14th** at the 9 AM worship service. Following that service there will be a congregational vote to call Pastor Joshua Nemeth as our next Pastor.

Your presence and prayerful participation are requested as we seek God’s guidance as we decide upon calling Joshua as our next Pastor. We encourage every member to be at both events.

These events were called by the Search Committee and the Board of St. Peter’s .

Say a Prayer for:

Recent

Dave Whyte & Family
Sherry Goerner
Belle Ryan
Anna Sommers
Barry Reinert
Ava Miller
Russell Snyder
Dennis Oriel
Margarita Santnadeleon
Sandy Clemson
Lynn Long
Harry & Janie Connor

Ongoing

Austin Klein
Beth Pravozino
Betty Breiner
Bonnie Miller
Brad Steigerwalt

Bruce Miller
Carolyn Lantz
Clyde
Cody Wolfgang
Darlene Kunkel
Darryl Moyer
Debbie Mooney
DeRue Kistler
Donald Hank Williams
Erin Coombe
Erlin Moyer
Gregory Slivka
Judy Gerber
Kay Faust
Kenneth Breiner
Kenny Oliver
Leon Kunkel
Linda Garber
Loretta Beers
Maggie Wehr

Mark Wolfe
Marsha Rodgers
Mary Lou & Jim Walk
Mary Lou McGowan
Nadine
Parker Brode
Paul David
Renee Troutman
Ricky Everett
Rita Yarmell
Robbie Trainer
Sharon Horning
Sue Hower
Teresa Fowler
Terry Abrachinsky
Tim Kistler
Wayne Lazarus



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

2025 Covenant Forms Mailing

The 2025 Covenant Forms were mailed this week. As 2025 comes to an end, we ask those who are members to fill out and sign as a solemn promise between your self, your Savior and the church. We ask those who are friends of our church to confirm your relationship with us. Please return the forms by December 31st either on a Sunday or through the mail. These forms make sure that our membership roles are up-to-date. Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE:

**The church's financial books will be closed as of December 31, 2025.
Any cash or checks received after that date will be included in the 2026
financial records.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Today, Sunday, November 30:

9:00 AM Worship Service ~ First Sunday in Advent

**Children dismissed for Sunday School after Children's Time

10:15 AM Adult Sunday School

(Christmas Poinsettia orders due)

Thursday, December 4:

6:00 PM Cherub Choir rehearsal

6:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal

7:00 PM Senior Choir rehearsal

Next Sunday, November 30:

9:00 AM Worship Service ~ Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Children dismissed for Sunday School after Children's
Blessing

Congregational Meeting ~ Church Board Nominations &
Benevolence Amount Set

10:15 AM Adult Sunday School

12:00 PM WASP Family Christmas Party

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

WASP NEWS

Christmas Poinsettias: Forms can be found on the table in the church parlor and at both entrances to the sanctuary. The deadline for ordering is **TODAY November 30th** and the cost is \$10.00 each. Forms can be given to Lori Hoppes.

The WASP Christmas party will be held on **Sunday, December 7th**, in fellowship hall at 12 noon. Signup sheet is on the table in the parlor.

WASP usually meets in the fellowship hall the third Tuesday of every month unless a special event is planned. All women are invited to join them.

Please help us with building security issues ~ whenever you enter the building, please inform the office staff either in person or by phone.

If no one is available in the office and pre-school is in session, please notify the pre-school staff. Thank you.

November 23, 2025

Attendance: 106

Plate Offering: \$ 152.00

Total Current Offering: \$ 1,723.50

Building Maintenance Fund: \$ 360.00

Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 1,598.00

Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 1,191.00

~~~~~  
**Benevolence:**

**Total YTD: \$ 10,362.00**

**2025 combined benevolence goal is \$10,000.00**

**St. Peter's Church, West Penn**

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

**Rev. Cliffert Herring, Interim Pastor ~ 484-553-9175**

**Denise Moyer, Board President ~ 484-695-1887**

**Lori Hoppes, Vice President ~ 610-393-0901**

**For pastoral care, visitations, please call Pastor Herring at 484-553-9175**

**Contact Denise Moyer, Board President for general concerns at 484-695-1887**

**Contact for our TLC Committee for Your Special Needs:**

**Please call Nancy Knadler at (570) 956-6851 , or email at Lukie@ptd.net**

**Sexton: Lou Ann Algard 570-778-4063**

**Financial Secretary: Sharon Main**

**Church Office: Elaine Koons**

**Substitute: Anne Scott**

**Church Office Phone: (570) 386-4388**

**Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00am—1:00pm,  
Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm (Hours subject to change)**

**E-mail addresses: Rev. Herring ~ reched@rcn.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**