

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

***Third Sunday of Advent
Dec 14, 2025***

***Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
And Nursery School
2545 Franklin Ave.
Secane, PA 19018
Office: 610-544-2707***

We welcome Rev. Bruce Davis for sharing the Gospel today.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME, WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ GATHERING +

(Please stand as you are able)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 242 (vs 1-2)

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

(Cont'd)



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
 whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C: Long-expected God,
 we confess that we look to ourselves
 for the peace and security only you can provide.
 We reach for swords and spears,
 reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
 We become impatient while waiting
 and weary of keeping awake.
 Free us from self-reliance,
 and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
 Increase our trust in God's timing,
 and awaken us to your advent among us,
 that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
 Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✙ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE *(spoken)*

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts

as we await the Lord's coming in glory.

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

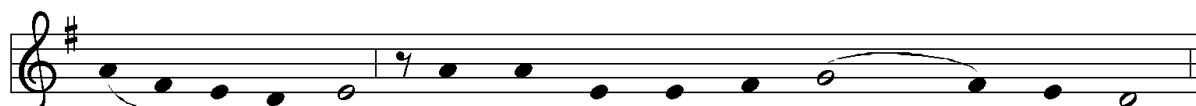
Amen.

As the third candle is lit, please join in singing: ELW 257 (vs 3 only)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

+ THE WORD +

PSALM 146:5-10

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those
who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of
the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.
The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it
until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient.
Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and
sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged.
See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and
patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of
the Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand, as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the Eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way before you.’

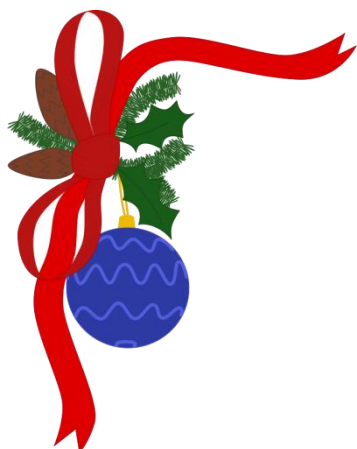
¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater

than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)



The Children of Holy Spirit
Pre-Kindergarten
Joyfully Present
“THE CHRISTMAS STORY”

Mary	Gemma Siau
Joseph	Eniyan Joshua Arokia Joline

Star Angel	Vihana Palla
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Innkeepers	Anika Madhan Sariya Pryda
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Shepherds	Alessia Hales Tanvika Mupparti Juliann Morales
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Wisemen	Kai Michels Aadvik Milu Vinay Samuel Ebigbola
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Angels	Inaaya Shaikh Joel Reagan Zoya Fathima Shaik
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Narrated by – Nancy Hooper
Accompanist – Janice Gardner

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 281 (vs 1 only)

Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!*



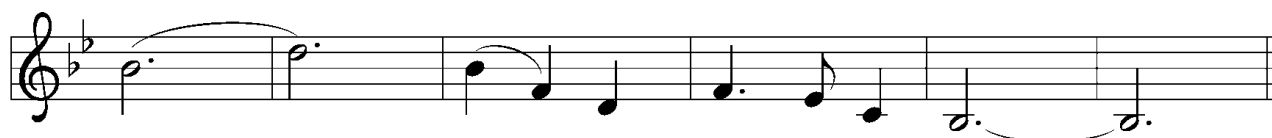
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885

Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(for Advent)*

I believe in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God – the source of all light and life.

I believe that God sent Jesus Christ, as the Word Incarnate, into this World so that all might be bathed in his light and know the true source of life. On the witness of the disciples, I believe that Jesus was crucified, died and was buried – then brought back to life that we might also have new life in him.

I believe the Word of God still speaks today to those who have ears and hearts to listen.

I believe, with the power of the Holy Spirit, that my life can be a witness to God's living presence and grace. Amen

(Please be seated)

+ RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD +

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(response after: God of Grace

C: hear our prayer.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Let us greet one another from our seats in the name of the Lord, saying, 'Peace be with you'.

OFFERING:

A: We worship through our tithes and offering. Now let us joyfully respond to God's goodness, through our personal giving.

It is only through your giving that the ministry and mission of Holy Spirit continues. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their generous giving. Offerings can also be dropped in the mailbox or mailed in.

OFFERTORY

Come by Here



- 1 Come by here, Lord, come by here; come by here, Lord, come by here;
- 2 Some-one needs you, Lord, come by here; some-one needs you, Lord, come by here;
- 3 Send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here; send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here;



come by here, Lord, come by here.
 some-one needs you, Lord, come by here. O Lord, come by here.
 send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

A: Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

In Holy Communion, the church shares the forgiving and renewing presence of the Lord Jesus in bread and wine. We invite all to receive this sacrament. Communion will be offered either by intinction or the prepackaged communion cups. You can pick up your prepackaged communion cup before entering the church and receive that from your seat at the appropriate time or come forward to receive the elements from pastor at the rail. Please discard your cups on the way out. Thank you.

(Please stand as you are able)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

A: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 248

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

Nov's Income: \$ 11,606

Average Attendance: 22

Nov's Expense: \$ 6,467

Altar flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of my daughter Jackie on her birthday by Debbie Gruhler and in loving memory of Tom Kilian by Diana Downey.

MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD

Scheduled to serve 12/14

Greg C. – Assisting Minister

Alan S./Alan D. – Ushers

Greg – Counter

Kathy D. – Altar

Scheduled to serve 12/21

Kathy D. - Leader

Colahans - Ushers

Colahans - Counters

Kathy D. - Altar

*******WEEKLY CALENDAR*******

Mon, Dec 15

6:30pm – G/S (Mtg Rm)

Wed, Dec 17

7:30pm – AA (Hall)

Thu, Dec 18

7:00pm – AA (Hall)

7:00pm – DA (Mtg Rm)

Sat, Dec 20

10:00am – AA (Hall)

11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)

5:00pm – Hall Rental

Sun, Dec 21

10:15am–Worship

12:30pm – Song of Praise (Sanctuary)

6:00pm – Blue Christmas @ St. Matthews

Woodlyn

*****PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS*****

Healing:

Annie Berner
 Eileen Maloney
 Lisa McDonough
 Hugh Mullarkey
 Lois Saunders
 Betty Lake
 Anne Rainsford
 Dolores Maurer
 Isabella Jones
 JoAnn Williams
 Joan & Harry Chaykun
 Nikki Miller
 Geralyn Gerakaris
 Mike Varano

Jackie Bernduer White
 Jackie Dewitt
 Maureen Colahan
 John Turner
 Lynn McGrane
 Jamal MacDonald
 Jean Cilurso
 Phyllis Horton
 Lou Vallies
 Linda Martin
 Bill McVian
 Suzie Thomas
 Harry Collins

(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list for Dec, please call the office)

Also please remember in your prayers homebound members: Ruth Dell'Orefice, Jane Croghan, Diane Kuhn, Hank Kuhn, Janet Kline, Dudley Henriques, and Bob Kerns.

Men & women in our armed forces, firefighters, police officers and emergency services personnel.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

POINSETTIAS ORDERS –Today is the Last Day to order pointsettias. Forms are included with your bulletin. Help decorate for Christmas.

ALTAR – We are in need of volunteers for January to set up and take down altar each week. Can you volunteer for a week? Please see sign up list on bulletin board in front of office.

2025 ANNUAL REPORTS – Are due in the office by **Jan. 11th 2026.**



Christmas Worship Opportunities

December 14th Sunday morning worship will be a morning you don't want to miss. The Nursery School will be presenting their Christmas Pageant. Please come and celebrate the children. Service will be in the hall.

December 24th Christmas Eve worship services at **3:30** will include candle lighting and holy communion. **PLEASE NOTE ONLY 1 SERVICE AT 3:30pm.**

December 28th – Service of Lessons and Carols

Delco Conference Events

December 21st Sunday evening at 6:00pm will be a “Blue Christmas Service at St. Matthew’s Lutheran in Woodlyn.

The Blue Christmas, a Service of Hope for the Holidays, pays attention to the special needs of people who are "blue", sad or in pain at this holiday time.

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) at Grace Lutheran in Drexel Hill is inviting women of the DELCO Conference to join together.

If interested please email gracelutherandh@gmail.com

Grief Support Group, 2nd & 4th Wed, 6:30pm at Grace Lutheran Church, Broomall

For more info, call the office or check out the bulletin board outside of office

GOSPEL READING

Living In the Now and the Not Yet

In this season of Advent we stand in the discomfoting quiet of waiting for the salvation of the Lord while simultaneously seeing that very salvation breaking into the world around us. Like John the Baptist we ask Jesus “are you here, or should we still wait?” The answer to this question is “yes.”

Yes, Jesus is here among us in his body and blood at the eucharist. But we wait for the day when he returns. Yes, Jesus is here among us bringing peace and reconciliation. But we wait for the day when he will make *all* things new. The new life promised by the coming of a savior is both realized and still to come. We who live in the Christian faith do so as people searching the world around us for signs of God’s kingdom.

Gathering as Christ’s body on earth, we have a sort of dual-citizenship in the now and the not-yet as we both proclaim that Christ is among us and also fervently pray “even so, come Lord Jesus.” As believers, our hope does not rest in the efforts of our piety or in the comfort of the hereafter. Rather, our hope is in the promises of a gracious, faithful God; promises fulfilled before our eyes and those not yet seen. We long for the day in which, like Isaiah’s vision of what will be, the blind see and the lame leap like deer. Yet we tell what we see and hear around us: that the dead are raised and the poor receive good news. The day is here and yet still we wait. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.



OUR STAFF

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Director of Music – Samuel Stevenson

Office Secretary – Jeanne Warner

Holy Spirit Nursery School

Pre-K Teacher – Nancy Harris

Teaching Assistant – Colleen Hall

Pre-School & MMO Teacher – Shelly Avila

Teaching Assistant – Michelle Brackin

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