FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00 A.M. Combined Service Rev. Mark Piedmonte Music Director – Gregory Fraser * Congregation will stand

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS: Liszt Weihnachtsbaum

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - During Covid, masks are required. There will be no singing other than by the minister and organist. At this time there is no need to stand during designated hymns. Hymn lyrics are provided as inserts so you may participate spiritually. We do not touch hymnals, friendship pads, Bibles, or offering plates. Place offering in plate upon entrance or when exiting.

INTROIT: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" (See Insert to follow along)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader/People)

Leader: A ruler will come from Bethlehem,

All: and he will be the shepherd of peace.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come:

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

All: She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

(All four candles are now lit)

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN: "Love Has Come" (See Insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

All: Mighty God, we confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Leader: Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name and hear this wonderful news again: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! All: Thanks be to God! Amen. *GLORIA PATRI Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen. *WORDS & GESTURES OF PEACE: (turn to extend signs of peace to neighbors from a distance) Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you. All: And also with you. CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "It's ALL about Love" Rev. Mark Piedmonte *SONG OF PRAISE: "There's A Voice in the Wilderness Crying" PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Leader: Let us pray, asking the Spirit's guidance in understanding the Scriptures: All: Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 9: 6-7 (responsive) Leader: For a child has been born for us, All: a son given to us; Leader: authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, All: Mighty God, Leader: Everlasting Father, All: Prince of Peace! Leader: His authority shall grow continually, All: and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. Leader: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. All: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14 Response to the reading of God's Word: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord! All: Thanks be to God! ADVENT SERMON SERIES: "And He is Named... Prince of Peace" Rev. Mark Piedmonte *HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (See Insert) CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed (Traditional) I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. SHARING OUR JOYS and CONCERNS PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Leader: Hear us, O God. All: Your mercy is great.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY - Please include your Christmas Joy Offering

*SONG OF DEDICATION: (*Doxology*) "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." Amen. *CLOSING HYMN: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (*See Insert*) *BENEDICTION / RESPONSE: *O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee. O Israel.*

POSTLUDE: Liszt Weihnachtsbaum

STATEMENT FROM SESSION RE: BPC's COVID-19 RESPONSE

The BPC Session is on top of the mounting concerns over rising COVID cases in MD and has the best interest of our church family at heart. We are committed to following MD state guidelines and will make any needed adjustments accordingly. For now, we will continue to meet in-person for worship with attendance at or below 50% capacity. We will also make every effort to assure services are taped and uploaded to Face Book and to the church website in a timely manner for folks who choose to worship from home instead. We will also limit indoor group gatherings. For now, let's do all we can to stay – and help others to stay – healthy and safe. Please, when on church grounds for any reason, wear masks, avoid physical contact, stay 6 feet apart and wash your hands often. And if you feel sick in any way – please stay home, see the doctor, and call Pastor Mark for healing prayers. 610-428-3135. With God's help, and each other's, we will get through this!

BUCKINGHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

20 S. Main St., Berlin, MD 21811 Ph: 410-641-0234; Fax: 410-641-1959 E-Mail: info@buckinghampcusa.org Web: www.buckinghampcusa.org



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TODAY, December 20, 2020	4 th Sunday of Adven
9:00am	CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Taylor Hall
	Advent Readers/Candle Lighters – Thank you to the Harsh Family
11:00am	TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary
	Advent Readers/Candle Lighters – Thank you to the Nickell Family

ANNOLINCEMENTS

THIS WEEK: December 21 - 26, 2020

Monday, December 21	Sharing & Caring 6:30pm
Thursday, December 2	4 Christmas Eve Family Service 3:00pm in Taylor Hall
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
Friday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Church Office Closed
Sunday, December 27	ONLINE SERVICE ONLY – Available on Facebook or our Website

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - SEE ALSO "SCHEDULE OF EVENTS"

Friday, January 1	HAPPY 2021!! Church Office Closed	
Monday, January 4	Sharing & Caring 6:30pm	
Tuesday, January 5	Session 6:00pm	
Thursday, January 7	Bible Study 6-7:30pm	
Sunday, January 10	Baptism of the Lord Communion Sunday	

- SHARE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT! Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 20th Drive-Thru Pick-up or Delivery ONLY. Questions? Call Debi Cook 410-430-9111 or Cindi Pruitt 443-880-5502.
- CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE There is a basket with dividers for members who would like to exchange cards with one another without having to worry about mounting postage costs. This basket will be available in each service and members can simply place their cards in the alphabetical last name of their recipient.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE** This year we are adding a Family Service at 3:00pm in Taylor Hall. Families are invited to come sit around tables together, enjoying special music, prayers, and a message in celebration of the birth of Jesus. We will continue to have our regularly scheduled 7pm service in the Sanctuary.
- SPECIAL THROUGHOUT ADVENT SHEEP TRAIL! Can you spot the sheep in our local stores? Between November 27 – December 25, local businesses will display sheep figures in their windows. Children will have a chance to find them scavenger hunt style for special prizes! How fun and what a great way for the community to feel blessed by a spirit of Christmas.! BTW – All are invited to take a walk or drive around town and see if you can spot the sheep in local business windows. Who will find them all?

STAFF HOURS:

Pastor: Tuesday 3-5pm, Wednesday 1-3pm, Friday 10am-Noon Secretary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am – 3pm Custodian: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (hours flexible and as needed) Music Director: (Hours flexible and as needed)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, December 20, 2020	4 th Sunday of Advent
9:00am	CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Taylor Hall
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11:00am	TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary
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THIS WEEK: December 21 - 26, 2020

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Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve Family Service 3:00pm in Taylor Hall	
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm in the Sanctuary	
Friday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Church Office Closed	
Sunday, December 27	ONLINE SERVICE ONLY – Available on Facebook or our Website	

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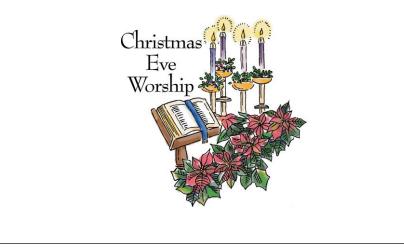
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INTROIT: COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. "Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover and their warfare now is over."

OPENING HYMN: LOVE HAS COME

Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it. Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of His mother. What is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come, He never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

SONG OF PRAISE: THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS CRYING

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; Make straight all the crooked places where the God, our God, may go!

2ND HYMN: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth!

3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

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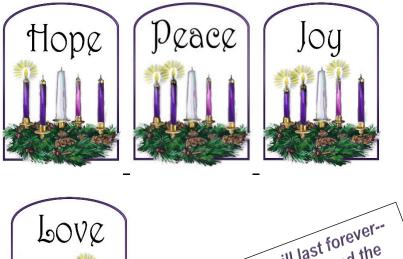
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CLOSING HYMN: GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!





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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2020

HUGH & SUSAN CROPPER Memory of Dorothy H. Taylor

THE GUBOSH FAMILY Memory of Michael Xavier Gubosh

JESSE & SHERI LYNCH

Memory of Charles H. Lynch, Sr. & Mary Louise Taylor Lynch Charles H. Lynch, Jr. & Betty Crabtree Lynch Thomas Taylor Lynch, Sr.

FRED & CAROL NEAL

Memory of Loved Ones *Honor of* Our Children & Grandchildren

GEORGE PHILLIPS

Memory of S. Glen Phillips George O. Phillips III Mark Hammond Brett Hammond

CHARLON M. PRUITT

Memory of John Q. Pruitt Milton E & Irene W. Moore

KAREN VAN ROEKEL

Memory of Betty Van Roekel Margaret Porter

HERSHEL & CAROL ROSE Memory of

Dalmas & Gladys Parker Mamie Parker Morris & Evelyn Hall Mildred Ann Villani Nevada Hastings Honor of Buckingham's Sunday School Children & Youth Class

PATRICIA ROUCH

Memory of David Rouch *Honor of* Grandsons: Adam, David, Matthew, William, & Ryan

JOE & CINDY SCUKANEC Memory of John & Barbara Thomas

KIRK, CAROL, & ANDY STEIN Memory of

Molly Stein Wally Stein

SUSAN J. TODD Memory of

Bob & Bertha Jackson

TOM & LYNDA TRUITT

Memory of Dewey Davis, Connie Davis, Wayne Truitt Myrtle Truitt JR Truitt Bob Wilkins Toby (our pet)



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Memory of Molly Stein Wally Stein

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Memory of Bob & Bertha Jackson

TOM & LYNDA TRUITT

Memory of Dewey Davis, Connie Davis, Wayne Truitt Myrtle Truitt JR Truitt Bob Wilkins Toby (our pet)

Christmas Joy

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

developing & sustaining our leaders Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



CHRISTMAS JO SPECIAL OFFERINGS LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUT



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