



# Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

December 1, 2019

11:00am

1st Sunday of Advent

## DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

**Welcome and Greeting**

*(Please complete Prayer Concerns)*

**Gathering Prayer:**

O come, O come Immanuel  
And bless each place your people dwell.  
Melt ev'ry weapon crafted for war;  
Bring peace upon the earth forever more.

*Refrain:* Rejoice, rejoice! Take heart and do not fear;  
God's chosen one, Immanuel, draws near.

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship:**

This is the season of holy waiting.

**We wait for the day when swords are transformed into ploughshares.**

We watch for the day when the ways of war are exchanged for the ways of peace.

**We wait in the shadows for the Light of the World to appear.**

**Come let us walk in the light of God!**

**\*Opening Song of Praise:** "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

#106

(Prayer Concerns Collected)

## AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

**Lighting of the Advent Candle : Pastor Leslie and Mike Donovan**

*Congregation sings:*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,  
Shine through the darkness, Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's eternal time.

**How long, O Lord, how long?**

For those waiting for answered prayer:

**Grant your steadfast patience.**

For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

**Grant unshakable confidence that you will keep us in your tender care.**

For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

**Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.**

For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

**\*Call to Confession**

You know what time it is: now is the time to wake from sleep. Salvation is near! Let us confess our sin.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Unison

**Tender and loving God, nothing in life can be hidden from you. For the many times when we have hurt others through careless words and mindless actions, we ask your forgiveness. For the times when our selfishness does not allow us to reach out to others in love, forgive us. O God, renew us in love and teach us once again to follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*\*Time of Silent Confession*

**\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

**In baptism we are washed in water, and covered with grace. Beloveds, let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ! Know that we are forgiven and let us live in peace.**

**\* Gloria:** "Halle, Halle, Halle" #591

**\*Our Faithful Response:** "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" #757

**Anthem:** "While We are Waiting, Come" (The Choir)

**LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Prayer for Illumination**

## Scripture Lessons:

### Isaiah 2:1-5

**2** The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

### Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>36</sup> "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

**Sermon:** "Excavating Hope"

**The Rev. Leslie Latham**

## RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### \*Affirmation of Faith:

Unison

**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.**

### Invitation to the Offering:

Come with gratitude and joy to the table of the Lord. Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives as an offering of praise.

**Offertory:****\*Praising God's Goodness – Doxology**

#606

**\*Prayer of Dedication:****Unison**

**We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion****Hymn Before Communion:** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," vv.1-2

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**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** (see insert)**Prayers of the People and the 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 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.**

**Sharing the Bread and Cup** (The congregation will walk down the center aisle, take the bread, dip it into the cup and eat. A gluten-free option is available.)

**\*Prayer after Communion****Unison**

**Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven: your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him, and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.**

**ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD****\*Hymn of Sending:** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

#97

**\*Benediction:****\*Postlude:**

\* Those who are able, please stand

**WORSHIP AIDS:**

**Large Print Bulletins, Hymnals & Hearing Devices – available from ushers. Children's Sanctuary - at the rear of the church**

**Baby Changing Tables - in both rest rooms of Church School Building.**

**Deacon's Prayer Chain - To activate Prayer Chain call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319.**

### New Prayer Concerns or Joys

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week:** Family & friends of Rob Eshelman and Family & friends of Jeffrey Bender.

**Continuing Prayers:** Scott Greenawalt; Pat & Bob Erisman; Kris Yettra; Judy Geerkin; Paul Card; Nadia; Doris Carlson; Bonnie Bringham; Marlene Tyrrell; Deal Kowsky; Bonnie Zimmer; Mary Jo; Shirley Hagle; Jackie; Denis Luzuriaga, Michael, Maras Family, Katie, DeSain & Fluellen Families and Brett.

**Prayers and caring for our homebound:** Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; Alice Weber; Bob Palfi; Lillian Simon; Joy Welch; Wilma Bender; Margaret McBride; Peggy Hess, and Sue Strasser.

*Because God's love is for all - everyone is always welcome.*

*We pray that God may bless you with peace, inspiration, and strength. We are a community, seeking to learn what it means to follow Jesus. No matter what you may be going through, no matter where you may be on your faith journey – you are most welcome here! If you would like more information, please call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319*

**LITURGIST:** Billy Welch

**GREETER:** Laura & Alvin Marohn and Nathan Harrington

**USHERS:** Team 3

**STEPHEN MINISTERS:** are always available to provide confidential support in times of need. Simply call Janet Haacker @ 694-4290.

**REMINDER:** Please call Pastor Leslie @ 490-0420 or Judy in the office @ 692-1319 if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

### Advent Sunday Early Morning Communion/Worship

During the Advent Season, Pastor Leslie will hold special communion/worship services in the parlor at 8:30am on December 1, December 8, December 15, and December 22. This is a meaningful way to enter into the Advent Season of love.

**Christmas Memorial Flowers:** It's not too early to be thinking about Christmas poinsettias. The Deacons will be selling flowers before and after worship on November 24 and December 1. The cost is \$10.00.

### Circle II Bag Sale: Saturday, December 7

Circle II Women's Group will hold a "Classic Bag Sale" on Saturday, December 7 from 10am-12pm. Come and fill a bag for \$2.00. You won't want to miss all the bargains.

### Tonawanda City Schools Holiday Party Food Drive

Please help the Deacons collect food for those children in need right here in our own city. Bags will be filled with particular food items and will be given to the kids at the holiday party to take home to have during their Christmas break. Tickets will be handed

out with specific items that are needed. Cash donations are also welcome. Food and donations need to be here by December 8. See Jane Crossan for more information.

### **Presbyterian Women's Annual Christmas Tea: Sunday, December 8**

All women of the church are invited to attend right after worship. Come and enjoy yourself with lots of treats and fellowship. (Men are welcome too). Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

### **Charlie Brown Mitten Tree**

Our Charlie Brown Mitten Tree will be accepting your beautiful handmade or purchased hats, mittens or scarves. These warm items will be distributed to children in need in Tonawanda. All items need to be on the tree by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the Charlie Brown Tree in the Narthex.

### **Annual Cookie Exchange & Open House: Saturday, December 14 – 1pm-3pm**

You're all invited to Pastor Leslie's house for her Annual Cookie Exchange & Open House. Feel free to bring a dozen cookies to exchange. There will be plenty of food and beverages to go around. The address is: 51 Rockne Road, Tonawanda.

### **Worship Circle: Sunday, December 15 at 9:30am**

There will be a Worship Circle for the Sunday School kids in the parlor on December 15 at 9:30am. Nancy Bassett has some fun things planned for the kids.

### **Adult Bible Study Class: Sunday, December 15 at 12:15pm**

The Bible Study Class will now be held right after worship on the third Sunday of the month at 12:15pm. The next class will be on December 15 at 12:15pm. Feel free to bring a lunch or something to snack on. Any questions, contact Nancy Bassett.

### **Hunger Sunday: December 15**

Don't forget that the third Sunday of the month is Hunger Sunday. Food and cash donations are welcome and proceeds are donated to the Twin Cities Community Outreach. Drop off box is in the Narthex. Thank you for your support.

### **Ecumenical Blue Christmas: Monday, December 16 at 7pm**

There will be an Ecumenical Blue Christmas service on Monday, December 16 at 7pm at The Church of Nativity at 1530 Colvin Blvd, Town of Tonawanda. All are invited to participate in this worship service.

### **Memory Lane Respite Program: Tuesday, December 17**

The Memory Lane Respite Program will be held from 10:30am-2:30pm. There are many opportunities for you to help in volunteering and no monthly commitment. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer, stop by and see what the program is all about or contact Mike Donovan. Fun for all!



### Service of Healing and Blessing: Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30pm

A service devoted to healing and wholeness is held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. This is a "come as you are" service, includes communion, is open and welcoming to all who seek wholeness in their lives, Presbyterian or otherwise. Please join us in the sanctuary.

### Christmas Eve Communion Service: December 24

Please join us at the Christmas Eve Worship/Communion Service on December 24 at 8pm.

December 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship/Communion 11a  Deacons sell Memorial Flowers  "The Marvelous Advent Adventure" – Intergenerational Event 9a-10:30a	<b>2</b> AA 9a	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Circle II 9a	<b>5</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  Worship Team 6p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>6</b> PW Set Up for Tea 6p  UFO 7p	<b>7</b> Circle II Bag Sale 10a-12p
<b>8</b> Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a  PW Christmas Tea 12:15p	<b>9</b> AA 9a	<b>10</b> Deacons 1p	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>13</b> UFO 7p	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a  Hunger Sunday  Bible Study 12:15p	<b>16</b> AA 9a  CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	<b>17</b> Memory Lane 10:30am-2:30pm	<b>18</b> Healing Service 6:30p	<b>19</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>20</b> UFO 7p	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a	<b>23</b> AA 9a	<b>24</b> Office Closed  Worship 8p	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p	<b>27</b> UFO 7p	<b>28</b>