**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

*Please take a moment during the Prelude to silence your cell phones and quietly prepare yourself for worship.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

**People: Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.**

Leader: Let us worship our God of hope!

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son, Jesus Christ, at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymnal **82**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM**

**GOD AND EACH OTHER**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Spoken and Silent (After the corporate Prayer of Confession, please take a few moments of silence to individually confess our sins to God.)*

**Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi,**

**and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,** **that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.

Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**HEARING THE WORD**

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 25:1-10 Pew Bible **p.393**

SCRIPTUREJeremiah 33:14-16 Pew Bible **p.563**

Luke 21:25-36 Pew Bible **p.746**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Pew Bible **p.836**

MESSAGE  ***Boundless Hope*** *Rev. Piper Cartland*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER, followed by The Lord’s Prayer (we say ***sin***)

MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

**GOING INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN “While We Are Waiting, Come*”* Hymnal **92**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Those who are able please stand.

WELCOME! It is a joy to worship together in person. So that we may do so safely, here are the basic tenets for our COVID-19 Mitigation Plan: If the level of community transmission is substantial or high, the session recommends mask wear and social distancing by all congregants. If the level is low or moderate, mask wear and social distancing will be optional for vaccinated and recommended for unvaccinated and immunocompromised. The level of community transmission is posted by the entrance. Tithes/offerings may be placed in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary. Fellowship will be shared outside, as weather permits.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS with a black cover, are on the small bookcase in the rear of the sanctuary. If you use one, please put it back after worship.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES available on request. Please request one from the Sound Tech at the sound desk.

There are cards in the pews for visitors to fill out and for anyone who needs to update their information. Please place the cards in the offering plates as needed. If you are visiting today, the worship service is our gift to you. Please contribute to the offering or not, as God leads. We delight in welcoming you, and we are glad that you’re here!

Children up to kindergarten age are welcome in the nursery. There are clipboards with coloring pages in the narthex if your children wish to stay in the sanctuary.



**Weekly Walk**

#### Sunday 10:00 am Worship

**Sunday 1:00 pm New member class on Zoom**

**Monday 7:00 pm New member class on Zoom**

**Wednesday 7:00 pm Advent Bible Study on Zoom**

Last week’s In-Person Attendance --------- 38

Month to Date Income --------- $16,035.80

Month to Date Expenses --------- $16,583.73

We will hold virtual **new member classes** on Zoom today at 1 pm and tomorrow evening at 7. Please let Piper know if you would like to join the class, and she will send you a link to the meeting.

**Advent Bible Study** begins this Wednesday at 7 pm on Zoom. Please pick up your book in the narthex if you’re planning to attend.

We are still recruiting singers and ringers – if you’d like to sing in our **Christmas Eve choir or ring handbells** that evening, please talk to Piper. Rehearsals will begin after worship on Sunday December 12th.

The deacons have prepared **Advent bags** for the congregation. They are in the narthex – please remember to take yours when you leave today.

Scott Bailey

Lucy Witt

Evleen Kelly

Olivia Lewis

Bill Dougherty

Colton Braunwarth

Maya Priess

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