

*Calvary  
Presbyterian  
Church*



*The First Sunday of Advent*

## **MEANING OF ADVENT**

In the season of Advent we heighten our joyful anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of the Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemptive plan.

Advent leads us into a time of preparation; however, Advent is far more than preparing to celebrate the first coming of Christ, the incarnate Word. The pulpit hanging and the clergy stole are purple to symbolize the future coming of Christ the King to establish his rule over all things. In light of Christ's first coming, we know God's loving purposes are realized and we have hope for the fulfillment of the kingdom of God in the future.

## **ADVENT WREATH**

The Advent candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of the coming of the Lord, we watch and wait for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles remembering the promises of God.

## **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly "indescribable gift," as well as the gifts of church leaders - past, present and future and as such has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. It compels us to reach out with charity, justice, and grace. We seek to honor every child of God. This, too, is how we celebrate the child born on that first Christmas day. Presbyterians can respond to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. Your Christmas Joy gift helps to provide:

- Gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges
- Critical financial support to church workers and their families
- Presbyterian-related schools and colleges with education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage which has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

Christmas Joy envelopes are in the pew racks for your convenience.

# Order of Service for the Worship of God

## November 28, 2021

Out of care and love for our faith community,  
the Session of Calvary strongly encourages everyone  
to wear masks regardless of their vaccination status. (*See page 13.*)

### PREPARING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

*(At 10:55 a.m., a brief greeting as we prepare for worship.)*

PRELUDE – O Come, O Come, Emanuel

arr. Raymond Haan

STRIKING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CHORAL OPENING

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Advent is a time to hear again of God's redeeming work.

**All: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.**

Leader: Advent is a time to hear again of God's reconciling love.

**All: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.**

Leader: Advent is a time to hear again of God's unmerited grace.

**All: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.**

Leader: Advent is a time to hear again of our ultimate hope.

**All: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.**

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\* *As you are able, please stand.*

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: Today we light the first candle.

The first candle reminds us that as we wait upon the Lord we do so with a sense of heightened awareness.

In a world where our attention is easily diverted in many directions, Advent is a time to quiet ourselves and listen for God's word with expectant ears.

This Advent may we hear and receive the messages of the One who continues to speak.

## CHORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

### God Is Near

*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent*

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Lis-ten to the an-gels, hear the mes-sage they bring;  
tell-ing the news of a com-ing King; fill-ing the  
world with hope and good cheer. Je-sus, Em-  
man-u-el, God is near.

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*(Stand at the beginning of the Hymn and the Gathering Prayer.)*

\* HYMN 82, *sing all together* - Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

\* GATHERING PRAYER

*(All be seated.)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Susan Drummond

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, *all together*

**All: Forgive us, O God, for failing to live in service to your will. We have sought our own paths instead of your way. We bow to the demands of this world more than we seek your coming Kingdom. We have failed to love you and our neighbors as ourselves. Do not remember our failure. Rule in us, and renew us by your Spirit, that every moment we may be ready to serve you. Amen.**

*(A time of silence for personal confession.)*

KYRIE ELEISON – Lord, Have Mercy

Richard Proulx

RESPONDING TO GOD’S FORGIVENESS, *responsively*

Leader: We can trust in God,  
who still brings us salvation,  
who still supplies us strength,  
who still grants us forgiveness.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen!**

*(Stand for the singing of the Gloria Patri and the Passing of the Peace.)*

\* GLORIA PATRI, *sing all together*

**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.**

\* PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, *responsively*

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*(All be seated.)*

*(Due to COVID precautions, children may remain seated  
with their families during the TWYD.)*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (TWYD)

Dr. Tim Runge

*(Children in grades K-3 are invited to the East Classroom following TWYD  
for a lesson on Learning to Worship.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord!

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

SERMON – Will We Be Prepared or Unprepared?

Rev. Daniel Little

*(Stand for the singing of the Hymn.)*

\* HYMN 106, *sing all together* – Prepare the Way, O Zion

*(All be seated.)*

CALL TO OFFERING, *responsively*

Leader: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit  
Let us strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and earth,  
praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

**All: In gratitude to God, we dedicate our offerings, our lives, our prayers.**

OFFERING ANTHEM – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came,

Traditional Basque Carol

*(Stand for the singing of the Doxology and the Prayer of Dedication.)*

\* DOXOLOGY, *sing all together*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*(All be seated.)*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS – Sanctus

Franz Schubert

LORD'S PRAYER, *all together*

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## RECEIVING OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(All who come to the table of our Lord Jesus Christ are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. To come forward, please wait for an usher to dismiss you by the side aisle and return to your seat from the center aisle. If you do not wish to come forward, remain in your seat and communion will be served to you.)*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM – Come Jesus, Come Morning Star

Linda Cable Shute & Carl. P. Daw Jr.

### PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION, *responsively*

Leader: Lord God, in gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people,  
we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as renewed people  
because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same.

**All: Ask much of us, expect much from us,  
enable much by us, encourage many through us.**

Leader: So Lord, may we live to your glory,  
both as inhabitants of earth  
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.

**All: Amen.**

*(Stand for the singing of the Hymn and remain standing.)*

\* HYMN 93, *sing all together* – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE – While We Are Waiting, Come  
Claire Cloninger & Don Cason

\* POSTLUDE – Prepare the Royal Highway arr. Michael Burkhardt

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### ***IN MEMORIAM***

**\*\*\* Eva Walker \*\*\***

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

The flowers this week are to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Nell Cribbs Pollock, by her husband Herbert and children Robert and Marilyn.

Mail pledges and offerings to Calvary Presbyterian Church, 695 School Street, Indiana, PA 15701 or, make online donations by going to Calvary's "Give" webpage at <https://calvarychurchpa.com/give/>.

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings, whether made in the worship service or outside of it, are part of our worship of God and are used to support Calvary's ministry.

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# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

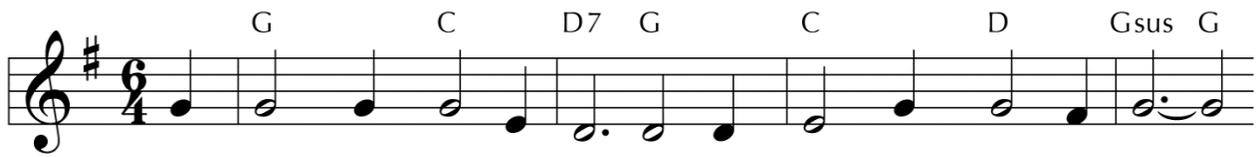
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

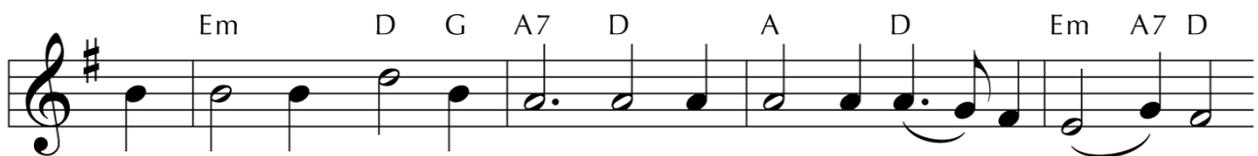
# Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



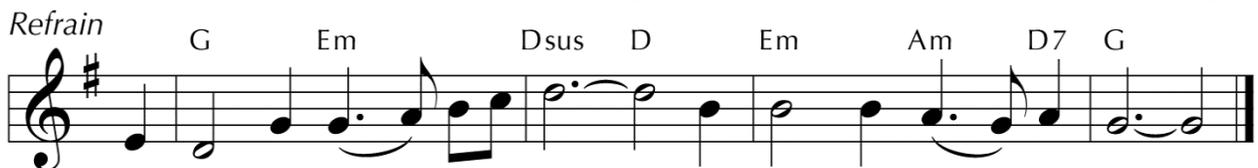
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;  
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930  
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bid. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

## COVID Update and CDC Recommendations

- Wearing masks reduces the risk of becoming infected or transmitting the virus to others.
- The CDC recommends **unvaccinated people** wear masks.
- In areas with substantial and high transmission, the CDC recommends that **fully vaccinated people** wear masks in public, indoor settings to help prevent the spread of the Delta variant and protect others.
- The CDC defines “substantial transmission” as counties with 50 to 100 cases per 100,000 residents over a seven-day period, and “high transmission” is more than 100 cases per 100,000 people over seven days.

As of Monday, November 22, **Indiana County had 558** cases per 100,000 people over seven days.