

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter

Welcome to our church!

*We hope the service is meaningful, and uplifting,
and that you will experience God's presence here.
May God bless you during worship today.*

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

Please see a greeter.

ELEVATOR

Please see a greeter.

REST ROOMS

Downstairs across from the church office.

DIAPER CHANGING TABLE

In fellowship hall family restroom.

Visit us at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: UIC Pastor

The Rev. Katy Moran: CELC Pastor

Terri Cromwell: Parish Administrator and OAKS Senior Center Director

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music Director

United In Christ's Mission Statement:

*Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor
God and neighbor through worship, learning, service,
prayer, stewardship and invitation.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

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

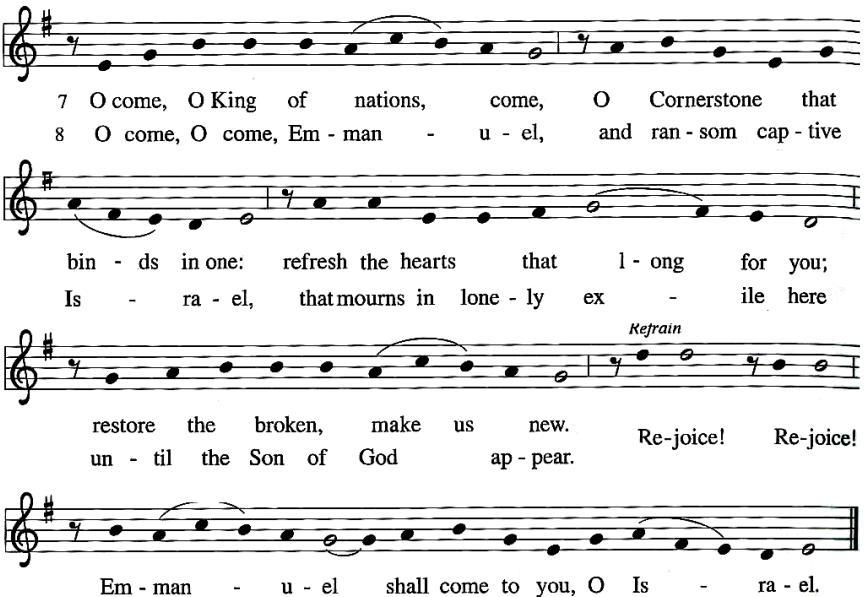
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
bin - ds in one: refresh the hearts that l - ong for you;
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Refrain
restore the broken, make us new. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

¹Hannah prayed and she said, "My heart exults in the Holy One of Old; my horn is lifted up in my God. My mouth [opens] wide against my enemies, for I will rejoice in my victory. ²"There is none holy like the Most High, none besides you; there is no rock like our God. ³Speak proudly no more, multiplying pride nor let arrogance come from your mouth; for the Ageless God is a God of knowledge, and by God deeds are accounted. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, yet the feeble gird on warrior-strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, yet those who were hungry are fat. She who was barren has birthed seven children, yet she who has many children languishes. ⁶The Creator of All kills and gives life; brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The Gracious One makes poor and makes rich; brings low and also lifts up. ⁸God raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from heaps of human waste, to seat them with nobles and inherit a seat of honor. For to the Creator belong the pillars of the earth, and on them God has set the world. ⁹God will guard the feet of the faithful who belong to God, while the wicked perish in shadow for it is not by might that one prevails. ¹⁰The Holy One of Sinai! Those who strive against them from heaven. The Fount of Justice will judge the ends of the earth; God will give strength to God's ruler, and exalt the power of the anointed of God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,

and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.



4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25

This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now this is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to have a child in her womb from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph her husband was a just man and unwilling to shame her, he wanted to divorce her secretly. ²⁰But when he deliberated this, suddenly an angel of the Most High God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for in her is conceived a child from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this happened to fulfill what had been spoken by the Most High God through the prophet: ²³"Look now! The virgin shall conceive a child in her womb and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel," which translated means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph got up from sleep, he did as the angel of the Most High God commanded him. He took her as his wife, ²⁵yet did not know her sexually until her birthing of a son and named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It features a treble and bass clef staff for each system. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff. The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass staff.

APOSTLE'S CREED

Let us confess our faith using the Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

Lord, in your mercy.

Receive our Prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please share the peace at whatever level of physical contact with which you are comfortable.

***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

OFFERING

You are invited to place your offering in one of the plates as they are passed or to make use of our online offering plate through tithe.ly by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving by clicking on the green “Give Now” button.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us saying:

**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 THE TABLE

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, and all people are invited to his table. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.
*The communicant may say: **Amen***

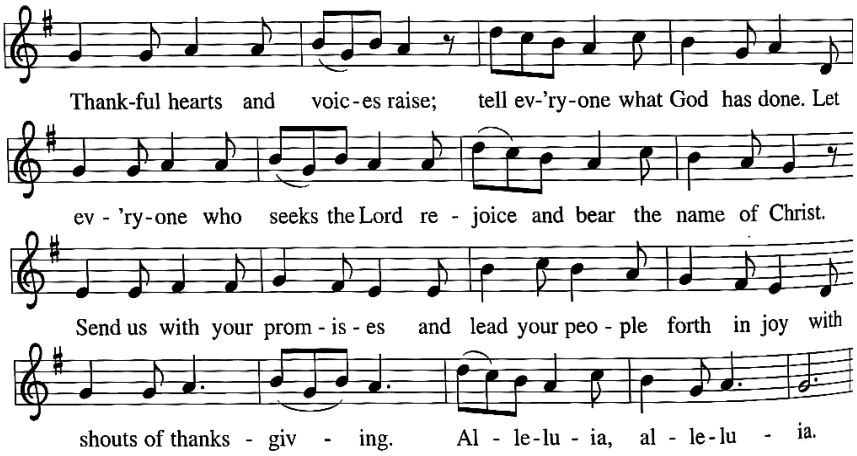
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
*The communicant may say: **Amen***

Music will accompany the distribution of communion.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray,

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



*Today's altar flowers are given
to the Glory of God
in honor of George Guffey's birthday
by Kathy Guffey.*

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In this season of Advent, our biblical translations come from the work of the Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX. This season's lectionary texts and translations can be found in Dr. Gafney's work, A Woman's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year W, copyright 2021, Church Publishing in New York, NY.

What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Dec. 22 **ADVENT 4**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
- Tue, Dec. 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Candlelight Worship, 6:00pm
Candlelight Worship, 11:00pm
- Wed, Dec. 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Office Closed until January 6th.
- Sun, Dec. 29 **LESSON AND CAROLS SUNDAY**
PJ Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Kylee Fawcett, Mary Baker, Annette Baker, Larry Fawcett, Aaron Murray, Delroy Caris, Rachel Lynn, Desiree Starks, Carol Troxell, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Patrick Mosley, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Bob Keifer.



Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

Submit your prayer request by calling 570-568-2254 or emailing it to office@unitedinchristlutheran.net.

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer. The prayer chain takes two forms: telephone or email. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please let Terri Cromwell know. Make sure you tell her if you would like a phone call or an email.

Happy Birthday

Dylan Sheaffer 12/25



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office with these dates.



HAPPY Anniversary

Tim and Rose Stitzel 12/24/71





The office will be closed December 25 - January 5.

Beat the Winter Blues Bingo

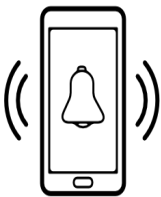


Everyone, please bring a "wrapped" gift up to a \$5.00 value and a snack to share.



Come and have fun. Everyone is a winner!

LET US KNOW



Please let us know when you are in the hospital or have an upcoming surgery. Call the church office at 570-568-2254 to let us know. Please do not assume that if you tell someone in church that the office or pastor will find out.

Because of confidentiality issues, it's best if you contact Pastor Justin or the church office directly.

PAJAMA *Worship*



DECEMBER 29TH
Worship at 10:00am

Wear your PJs to church for
LESSONS & CAROLS!



Buffalo Valley Conference of the Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA

Join the Facebook page for Buffalo Valley Conference of the Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA to keep informed about upcoming events within our 16 Lutheran churches.

www.facebook.com/bvcuss/

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Dec. 22	Dec. 24 6pm	Dec. 24 11pm	Dec. 29
Worship Leader	Lingenfelter Moran	Moran Lingenfelter	Moran Lingenfelter	Lesson/Carols
Social Hour	S - Z			A - D
Bread/Wine	M. Shearer	K. Sprengle S. Weiser	R. Baker	D. Byerly
Altar Guild	K. Guffey	S. Keifer ML Keifer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Digital Host	K. Guffey	K. Guffey	T. Cromwell	M. Shearer
Front Door Greeter	A. Stark	D. Byerly	M. Hauck	C. Robuck
	L. Olds	J. Byerly	P. Hauck	D. Robuck
Side Door Greeter	K. Olds	K. Baker	ML Keifer	S. Brown
Lector	B. Swartz	V. Tyrell	M. Shearer	A. Stark
Ushers	B. Swartz	K. Criswell	A. Stark	A. Stark
	T. Swartz	Ken Baker	K. Olds	L. Olds
	B. Troxell	L. Rabuck	L. Olds	K. Olds
	K. Arndt	M. Rabuck		D. Baker
Communion Asst.	M. Shearer	R. Kling	M. Shearer	S. Weiser
	R. Sprengle	B. Swartz		C. Robuck
Guest Relations	M. Rabuck			K. Noll
Offering Counter	L. Rabuck	R. Sprengle	M. Shearer	L. Rabuck
	P. Hauck	M. Rabuck	T. Cromwell	M. Shearer

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please try to trade with someone on the schedule and then notify the office of the change. If you are unable to trade with someone, please call Terri Cromwell at the church, 570-568-2254, and she will find a replacement for you.



Lutheran Church

**1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-568-2254**

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
Sundays at 10am

THE REV. JUSTIN G. LINGENFELTER

CHURCH OFFICE

Open Mon. - Thur. 8:00am - 2:00pm
Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

VISIT US AT

Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC