

First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania

Service of Holy Communion
First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022
10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” - Setting/J. Wayne Kerr
“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” - J.S. Bach; Georg Boehm
“Savior of the Nations, Come” - Mark Sedio, *arr.*
(Triptych, Canon, Quodlibet)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INTROIT AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.
--Ps. 62:5, paraphrase

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

O God, you know our inmost thoughts and from your sight we cannot flee. By the light of your Spirit, show us the sin for which we must give account, and by your mercy, give us courage to make our confession to you and to one another. This we ask in the name of Jesus your Son, our judge and savior. **Amen.**

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

The congregation may kneel or remain standing. A moment of silence is kept.

Most merciful God,

We confess to you our sin in thought, word, and deed, the things we have done, and the things we have failed to do. We have hurt our

neighbors and ourselves. We have wounded your creation. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us. Heal what we have broken and reconcile us to you, to one another, and to the earth and its creatures. Amen.

Into our waiting hearts and waiting world, the word of God speaks,
The word of God made flesh in Jesus Christ,
A word of God that is meant for you.

As a called and ordained minister of Jesus Christ and by his authority,
I declare this word to you:

Your sins are forgiven, and your life is handed back to you as a gift.
Rise to greet this new day with hope. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” Red Book #436

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.

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and

enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON AND JESSE TREE ORNAMENT

FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In 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.

³Many 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.

⁴He 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.

⁵O house of Jacob,

come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 *read responsively*

¹I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING **Romans 13:11-14**

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in

debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *stanza 1*

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
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GOSPEL **Matthew 24:36-44**

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to

stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But 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. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Now, O God



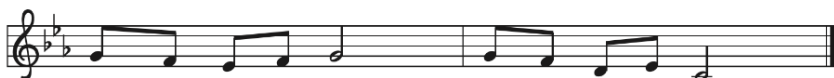
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the

dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In joyful expectation that he will come to our help, let us bring our burdens and concerns before the Lord Jesus Christ.

Come to your church as Lord and Judge. Show us how to spend the time, energy, and resources you have given us. Save us from foolishness. Help us live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your rule. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations. Bring a lasting peace in the land of your birth, and support all those who work for peace and justice in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Iran, and Ukraine, for before you all rulers will stand in silence. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to our own land with a message of peace. Show us what we must do to stem the tide of gun violence. Convert the hearts of those who hate and harass others based on their skin color, their sexuality, or their gender. Bring victims victory over death and evil. We remember especially those affected by mass shootings this week. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as savior and comforter. We pray for people who suffer from complicated or debilitating illnesses, for those whose mental health impacts their quality of life, and for those who have lost hope. Break into those areas of our lives where we live with failure and distress, and set us free to serve you forever. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us from heaven to meet us in power and great glory, and lift us up to meet you with all your saints and angels to live with you forever. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

The presiding minister concludes:

To you, Lord Jesus, we entrust our prayers, .
Amen.

THE MEAL

PEACE

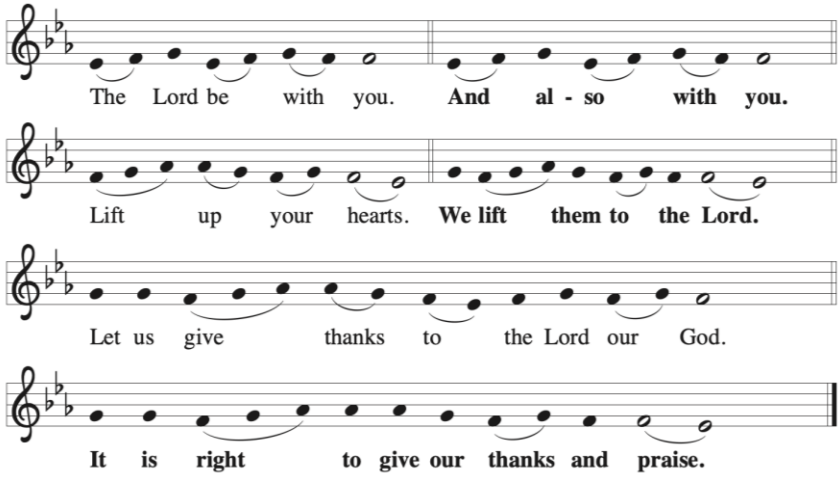
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“Nun komm’ der Heiden Heiland” - Marcel Dupré

OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

Mighty One, you have done great things for us...United at this table, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, O God, and send her into and through this gathered people, that, fed and strengthened with this holy food, we may magnify your presence in our world, until Christ comes again in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

We await his advent, O God, with all the saints of every time and place. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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 COMMUNION

LAMB OF 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.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to Holy Communion today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. The ushers will invite you forward to receive. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the pastor know if you wish to receive them. If you are able to receive either bread or wine (but not both), please know that you still receive the full communion.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

Red Book #247

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Red Book #244

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Lord Jesus, My Life, My Light” - Helmut Walcha

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sharon Heist Miller	Assisting Minister
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Sharon Heist Miller	Crucifer
Tucker Sequite	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Stan Graff; Dan Morrow; Christiaan van Driel; Andrew O'Rourke; Amelia O'Rourke	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Karen and Bob Domanski.

*All are welcome to gather in the social hall for coffee hour following worship.
Thank you to our host, Merry Miller.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 11/28	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 11/30	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 12/1	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 12/2		<i>Pastor Kimberly's Day Off</i>
Saturday, 12/3	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 12/4	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of Christ. Please join us after worship today for an intergenerational event, *Advent - Waiting for Jesus Christ*. We will have a light lunch, family advent wreath making, and a visit from John the Baptist. We will meet in the social hall after worship.

Devotions for the Advent Season based on our Jesse Tree are available electronically as an advent calendar or on paper from the ushers.

<https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=kzd2lr3z3k3drrijf0cjhxe0kqtcng05>

Support First English's ministry: In thanksgiving to God, financial contributions to the congregation can be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the worship space or made online at

www.firstenglish.org/giving.

Handel's Messiah: The MUSIC CLUB CHORUS of NEW CASTLE, Harry Cunningham, *Director*, will present its 80th Anniversary Performance of George F. Handel's *MESSIAH*, today, Nov. 27th, at 3 PM at the HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH, 415 Fourth Street, Ellwood City. Admission and parking are free. A free-will offering will be collected to help defray production costs. For more information (including directions), please visit our website: www.ncmusicclubchorus.org.

Advent Christmas Tree Drive Tradition: We will be collecting monetary donations for the Butler County Children and Youth Agency during the first two weeks of Advent, today, Nov. 27th and next Sunday, Dec. 4th, for Christmas 2022. With our help, we can continue to make Butler County a place where children and families are happy and thriving. This program has been around for many years because of the need and sustained through our participation in it. Please use the specials line of your offering envelope and make your check payable to First English Lutheran Church. God bless you. Thank you, Karen Domanski

Christmas Flowers Sign-Up Sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Please place your order by next Sunday, December 4th. You may also order by contacting the church office (724) 283-2378 or officefelc@zoominternet.net.

Advent Dinner & Worship – Everyone is invited to celebrate the beginning of the advent season at a dinner to be held on December 7th.

The dinner will begin at 6 PM and will be followed by a service of Lessons & Carols. The meat selection and beverages will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the social room with space for your name, the number attending, and a dish you would like to bring to share with others. Come and join in the fellowship of the season!

Join us for Daily Discipleship Bible study at 9 a.m. If you wish to join by zoom, please join the worship link. We'll conclude by 9:40.

PRAYERS

Family of Chris Holman; family of Hazel Warheit; 6-month-old baby girl in Ohio; Jack Beiler; Karen Knepp; Zachary Sutton; Tony Sequite; Hazel Warheit; Kyle Badger; Joyce Mitchel (Matt Cooper's grandma); those affected by hurricane Ian; Brian Salisbury; Mark Vogel & family; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Stan Graff; family of Gretchen Farrell; Aryl Bashline; Patrick Frank; Holly Schubert; Ellen Dodge; Tad Sellers; Claudia; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10

From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

Romans 15:4-13

Live in harmony, welcoming one another

Matthew 3:1-12

A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord

ZOOM MEETING INFO

To join online, click 'Join Our ZOOM Meeting' in the email.

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

To join via telephone, dial: +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

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