

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

**THE GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**      “An Advent Introit”                      - Tom Birchwood  
                    “Savior of the Nations, Come”                      - Harold Rutz  
                    “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”                      - Robert J. Powell

**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** “Savior of the Nations, Come” Red Book #263

### **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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, 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 7:10-16**

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts,**

**how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## **SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7**

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

stanza 2

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  
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Re-printed under onelicense.net A-734698

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the first chapter.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband

Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”      sts. 1, 5, 6, and 7      Red Book #257

## **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 to God.

*The congregation may kneel or sit.*

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, Kurt and Elizabeth, to our pastors, Kimberly and Ryan, and to all lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (*others may be named*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially Gracie and all others who have asked for our prayers. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### THE MEAL

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**



**CHOIR ANTHEM**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

- Freylinghausen's *Gesangbuch*, 1704

**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**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Red Book #490

**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**

“Joy to the World”

Red Book #267

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** “O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide” - Helmut Walcha

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Lois Trimbur	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Larry Hamil	<b>Reader</b>
Grant McVay	<b>Crucifer</b>
Julia McVay	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Senior Choir Director</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Brandon Stein	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	<b>Ushers</b>
Jack and Amy Beiler	<b>Counters</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Dorothy Croupe, in loving memory of her husband, Clyde L. Croupe.*

*All are welcome to gather in the social hall for coffee hour following worship.  
Thank you to our hosts, Jim and Jeanette Cunningham.*

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH**

Monday, 12/19	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 12/21	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 12/22	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Saturday, 12/24	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
	4:30 PM	Family-Friendly Worship Service
	9:00 PM	Candlelight Worship Service
Sunday, 12/25	10:00 AM	Worship (no Bible study)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Production issues have caused the 2023 offering envelopes to be delayed.** We are hoping that they will arrive in January.

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

<https://tinyurl.com/felcadvent>

**Reminder: Please send the photo** that you would like to include in the new church directory to [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net). (*preferred file types include: .jpeg; .tiff; .png*) If you have any changes to your contact information that you have not yet communicated to the church office, please send those updates along with your photo. Thank you!

**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.firstenglishbutler.org/giving](http://www.firstenglishbutler.org/giving).



### **PRAYERS**

Jim Cunningham; Gracie Love; Thelma Hassler; family of David Hartle; 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; Aryl Bashline; Patrick Frank; Holly Schubert; Ellen Dodge; Tad Sellers; Claudia; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

#### **Isaiah 62:6-12**

*God comes to restore the people*

#### **Psalm 97**

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. (*Ps. 97:11*)

#### **Titus 3:4-7**

*Saved through water and the Spirit*

**Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20**

*The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds*

**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

*Liturgical portions of today's service are reprinted with permission under  
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS028762.*