

**“Whoever you are...wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”
God is Still Speaking**

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF THE

Ascension

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



An Open and Affirming Congregation

November 29, 2020

11:00 AM



1700 West Main Street, Jeffersonville, PA 19403
(610) 539-1693

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“Of the Father's Love Begotten” (Plainchant)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CHIMING OF THE HOUR RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O that God would tear open the heavens
and come down!

**People: Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.
Be alert! Keep awake!**

Leader: The time is drawing near: The beginning of the
good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

People: Let us Worship God!

GATHERING HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” *Glory to God 107*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. (Isaiah 64:5b,7)

You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! (Psalm 80:2-7)
Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, (Isaiah 64:8) **and in your hands, we can be made new.**

silent prayer of confession

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Isaiah 64:1

Leader: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence –

WAITING IN SILENCE

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
musical setting found Glory to God 88

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

PASSING THE PEACE

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Lesson Mark 13:24-37

Leader: Holy Wisdom

People: Holy Word

HYMN

“Eye Has Not Seen” *soloist: Liz Brunton*

THE SERMON

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & OURSELVES

We want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have mailed in their offerings to the church. The ministry of Ascension Church continues, we need your support. Although we cannot gather in the building right now, we still have our expenses to pay and our outreach continues.

So, please continue to **mail** in your offerings, or you may also opt to contribute **online** through our new **PayPal** account that you can access on our website at ascensionucc.org and go to the Donate page. Please let us know if you encounter any issues accessing PayPal and know that we are grateful for your generosity.

THE INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us open our hearts.

People: We open them to our God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

People: It is right to lift up thanks and praise.

Leader: Great Deliverer, how wondrous are your deeds!
You created the world and all that is in it. With
a mighty arm you parted the waters and led your
people to liberation. When we were in exile,
you gathered us up in your bosom and led us
home like a mother sheep. When we were
mistreating our own, you sent prophets to set
us right. You pulled down the arrogant and lifted
up the weak. And when the time was right,
you sent Jesus to set us free.
Now send us again your life-giving Spirit and
recharge your promise within us, for we are
eagerly awaiting our Savior to come again
from heaven.

“Holy, Holy, Holy” *Glory to God 552*
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: So, with gratitude and expectation we remember
that Jesus took bread, blessed, broke, and
gave it to his disciples, saying, this is my body,
given for you.

So also remember that Jesus took the cup,
saying, this is the new covenant of love and
grace poured out for you and for many. Do this
in remembrance of me.

Leader: Now, as we wait for him to come again,
O God, stir up your power and restore us by
sending your Holy Spirit to infuse us with
hope in the great mystery of our faith:

**People: Christ had died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Leader: All glory and honor are yours, eternal God,
through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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.

*Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.*

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING THE WINE

Leader: Through the broken bread we participate in the
body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we
share in the new life Christ gives.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Amen.

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come,
for all things are ready, come and taste and see
how good the Lord is.

PARTAKING OF THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, Holy God, for giving us this meal, shared in the Spirit, which sustains us with the food and drink of your life. Grace our lives that we may at the last come to share in the heavenly banquet of your realm, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” *Glory to God 100*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“Postlude on “Veni Emmanuel”” (Josephs)

The Bulletins today are given to the Glory of God, in Loving Celebration of Nancy Fryer on her 75th Birthday.

*“My wife and lifetime companion for 56 plus years!
To think that I married a Grandmom with 10 grandchildren
and 1 great grandson...Whew!” Bob Fryer*

*The Flowers are given to the Glory of God, in memory of
Rev. Irvin R. & Mrs. Evelyn Lindemuth,
Mr. & Mrs. Reuben Lindemuth, and
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hartenstine.*

Question for Reflection

The weeks leading to Christmas are often filled with much activity. Along with work, school, and church responsibilities, there are special holiday festivities to which we will attend. Staying “awake,” as Mark 13:24–37 stresses, may not be the problem—in fact, we may feel there are not enough hours in the day! Yet, this reading from Mark counsels us to be awake to, to pay attention to, what is most needful for our well-being and the well-being of the world: God’s presence, God’s appearing among us. Here at the beginning of Advent, how will you “keep alert” for God in the midst of so many responsibilities and distractions?

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you, God, for the gift of life today.

I give thanks that your face shines upon me— *Ps. 80:3*
for you are my salvation.

Lead me like a shepherd through this day. *Ps. 80:1*
Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead.

Grant me the spiritual gifts of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness, *Gal. 5:22–23* for I want to show your love, in word and deed, to others. In Christ’s name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Though you have told us to keep awake, O God, *Mark 13:37* you have also blessed us with rest and sleep. Grant me such rest in the hours ahead that I awaken with eager longing for a new day, ready for you to be revealed in mundane moments and ordinary encounters. By your grace prepare me, whether awake or asleep, to greet you: in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn. *Mark 13:35*

All times are in your hands, and I, too, am in your hands, faithful God. *Isa. 64:8* In Jesus’ name I rest and pray. Amen.

Reminders:

1) Ascension UCC will once again have Poinsettias for our Christmas service. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please get back to us with the following information. The Poinsettia cost will be \$13.00 each.

Your name and phone number

How many Poinsettias you would like

Name of the person(s) given in memory of or Name of the person(s) given in honor of

You can send the money either by mail or drop off at the office.

If you would rather purchase and donate a blanket, in memory or honor of a loved one, we are accepting these contributions as well in connection with an outreach mission for the homeless through a program from Your Way Home. If you would like more information regarding Your Way Home, you can visit their website at yourwayhome.org.

The deadline for the Poinsettias and the blankets is Monday, December 14th.

2) Ascension UCC will once again be sponsoring Christmas gifts for the children at Bethany Children's Home.

Due to the Covid-19 circumstances, it will be a little different this year. We are looking to purchase \$25.00 gift cards for each child, and are asking if you can send us the donations, either through the mail or drop off at the office, and we will purchase the gift cards for you to bring to Bethany Children's Home.

We appreciate your generosity towards this important outreach mission, and we welcome you to consider sponsoring more than one child, if you are able.

The deadline for this mission is Sunday, December 13th.

Please call the office if you have any questions.



We welcome you to our Community of Faith. We pray that God will speak to you during this worship experience. If you have need of pastoral assistance, we encourage you to contact Pastor Dwayne at the church office number listed below or make an appointment with him today.

We welcome children in worship at all times. If you would prefer, childcare is available. Please see one of our ushers. Children's bulletins and crayons are available from the ushers.

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|---|---|
| Ministers | All the people of the Congregation |
| Pastor | The Rev. Dwayne A. Mosier |
| Minister of Music | Dan Weckerly |
| President of the Consistory | Liz Brunton |
| Vice President of the Consistory | Michele Luke |
| Secretary of the Consistory | Molly Lorenz |
| Moderator of Spiritual Council | Molly Lorenz |
| Elders: | Liz Brunton, Robin Weed, Mary Lambon
Molly Lorenz, Barbara Montague-Graham |
| Chair of the Diaconate | Michele Luke |
| Deacons: | Liam D'Aquila, Sandy Dounce
Michele Luke, Lynda Waltman, Christa Cavanaugh |
| Church Secretary | Judy Parker |
| Sexton | Emeric Suto |
| Treasurer | Sandy Maben |

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