

**“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*

**December 6, 2020**

**11:00 AM**



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

[www.ascensionucc.org](http://www.ascensionucc.org)

[info@ascensionucc.org](mailto:info@ascensionucc.org)

## Order of Worship

### PRELUDE

“Lyric Echoes” (Scott)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR RECEIVING THE LIGHT

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, (*Isa. 40:3-5*)  
“Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make God’s way clear.

**People: Lift up every valley; lower every mountain.  
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”**

Leader: Let us Worship God!

### GATHERING HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *Glory to God 96*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, (*Ps. 85:2*) that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name.**

*silent prayer of confession*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

### **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”

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh,  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

#### **THE SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Hebrew Lesson    Isaiah 40:1-11

Epistle Lesson    2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel Lesson    Mark 1:1-8

Leader: Holy Wisdom

**People: Holy Word**

#### **HYMN**

“Comfort, Comfort, Oh My People    *soloist Liz Brunton*

#### **THE SERMON**

## 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.*

## 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](http://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.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have kissed. (Ps. 85:10) May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *Glory to God 93*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

**POSTLUDE**

“Litany” (Paxton)

### *Questions for Reflection*

The prophet Isaiah announces good news: God comforts and strengthens a wearied and exiled people in preparation for their homeward journey. Mark's Gospel announces the good news of God in Jesus Christ: God comes to turn the world right side up and baptize us with the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, what is the beginning of God's good news in your life, and how will it change the way you approach this season of expectation and hope?

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings, the opportunity to turn toward you and start again. Empower me to be a messenger of good news, and a leveling influence along the way, as I seek to be one with you in smoothing out the rough places I encounter. Amen.

### *Household Prayer: Evening*

Lord, you have comforted me throughout this day and rescued me from my exile. Where I have flourished, I give you thanks; where I have erred, I ask your forgiveness. Protect me through the night that I may rest in your realm of peace where righteousness makes a home. Amen.





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

**Telephone: (610) 539-1693**

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