



United Methodist  
**Church of the  
Good Shepherd**  
*"connecting to broken and hurting people"*

Reverend Alan Smith, Sr. Pastor  
asmith@umcogs.org  
Reverend Lisa Flory, Equipping Pastor  
lflory@umcogs.org

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP** †  
*Celebration of Faith*



*Baby Samuel: The Peace of God*

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

1500 Quentin Road / Lebanon, PA 17042  
church: 717-272-7741 • home phone: 717-273-9685

TIME OF GATHERING: Read through Announcements, Pray over Concerns, Meditate on Celebrations and the wonder and grace of God, and Thanksgiving to God....

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Second Sunday of Advent**

Pastor: Today is the Second Sunday in Advent. The word often related to Christmas and the one we focus upon today is "peace."

**Liturgist: Luke 2:8-14**

Pastor: Christ came to bring peace. In his beautiful and poetic description of the birth of Christ, St. Luke tells of "a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace with whom he is pleased.'" Other ancient versions of St. Luke's words read: "on earth peace, good will among men."

**Liturgist:**

**One thing is certain, the New Testament affirms that Christ came to bring peace. In a world where there always seem to be conflicts of various sorts, it is clear God is not happy with altercations and wars. God's desire, according to the prophet Isaiah, is that people might 'beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.' Isaiah looked forward to the day when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).**

Pastor: When Christ was sent to deliver God's message, Peter tells us he came "preaching the good news of peace" (Acts 10:36). Christ shunned violence. When James and John wanted to set fire to a Samaritan village which did not welcome Jesus, the Lord rebuked the two fishermen. Destroying a community was not Christ's way of handling rejection. Again, when one of his followers tried to use a sword to defend Jesus at the time of his arrest, he said firmly, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matthew 26:52).

**Liturgist:**

**It was because Christ's central concern was to reconcile people to God and to one another that the New Testament affirms "he is our peace ... and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility" (Ephesians 2:14). Long before the Great Wall of China was built to repel enemies, the carpenter from Nazareth was at work demolishing barriers between people. The Berlin Wall was doomed to destruction from the time it was built. The Prince of Peace works for reconciliation, not division. Today we light the second candle. It reminds us that Christmas has to do with the birth of the greatest peacemaker who ever lived.**

Liturgist: (lights candle)

**Let us join in singing a second verse of our Advent Hymn,  
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

**ALL: O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.  
Rejoice!! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, we light this candle in honor of Christ the peacemaker. Our prayer is that we, too, may be peacemakers and thus be called the sons and daughters of God. Amen.

PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Robert Lau

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Rev. Susan A. Blain

Liturgist: We dream God's dream, of a world at peace: where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety; where the poor and powerless find justice.

**People: We remember God's promise of a Ruler of Peace, filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.**

Liturgist: We lit the Advent candle of peace today and we pray:

**People: Come Lord Jesus! Open our lives to the Peace which you bring; let us turn to you, and get ready!**

\*SPOKEN HYMN

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Prince of Peace, we look for peace in many places and cannot find it. Help us to find your peace in our hearts – a peace that heals the broken hearted, that calms the grieving soul, that gives strength to our weakness. Come, Lord Jesus, bring us your peace. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*  
Phyllis Conrad, Piano solo

arr. John Purifoy

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*1 Samuel 1:1-17*

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*SPOKEN DOXOLOGY

*All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to earth,  
begin and never cease, begin and never cease.*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

written by Bruce Prewer

**I believe in the Living God who is directly involved in the affairs of the world.  
I believe that God chooses the meek and the poor to shame the proud and the rich.  
I believe in the incarnate Word, leaping in a woman's womb, cradled in poverty.  
I believe in Jesus, true son of Mary, true Son of God, who came among us in weakness, that we might come to know God's profound strength, strength available to common people who turn to God in trust and with love. Yes, this I truly believe.**

MESSAGE

*"Baby Samuel: The Peace of God"*

*Pastor Alan Smith*

SPOKEN HYMN

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

AN INVITATION TO PRAY

+Prayer of Confession

Pastor: It is easy for us to lose sight of what the birth of Jesus means to this dark and dying world. Let us be reminded that Christ came to free us from our sin and reunite us

with our Creator. Let's pray: God of love, all year long we pursue power and money,

**People: yet you came in weakness, as a child.**

Pastor: All season long we want more stuff, more for us,

**People: but you alone offer what is lasting.**

Pastor: Through the work of our Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth,

**People: forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels.**

Pastor: When we allow darkness to overcome the light,

**People: forgive us, Lord. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father.**

Pastor: When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and believing in Your Song,

**People: let your grace fill us, O God. Forgive our doubt and renew our hopes in Christ alone, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord...**

+Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

+ORGAN RESPONSE

#### COMMUNION LITANY

Pastor: In the beginning, O God, there was only you. We lived with you, walked with you, and your presence was like the light of a thousand suns blazing. Yet we turned away from that light and walked into the dark. We hid from the glory of your fire. Our eyes were blinded by your brightness. Even so, you did not turn from us. You gave us the promise of a new light, the hope of our reconciliation. You promised us your Son.

**People: We await the fulfillment of your promise. We look into the dark, with eyes NOT used to your radiance, and see an ember burning. Renew our eyes. Send us your light, O God.**

Pastor: In the beginning, O God, there was only you. And you moved to save us from our blindness, to lead us from our dark wanderings, and to bring us back into the light of day. Little by little you have revealed your light. Little by little you have accustomed us to the coming fire. Through Sara and Abraham, through Jacob and Isaac, through Moses and David, through Mary and Joseph, you have slowly uncovered the ember of our hope still burning. You have revealed to us Christ Jesus.

**People: We have walked with Sara. We have walked with Abraham and all your prophets. We have tried to open our eyes to the light. Help us to see again. Help us to endure the light of your coming. Send us your light, our hope and our salvation. Send us your Son. Send us Jesus.**

Pastor: In the beginning, O God, there was only you: Creator, Word and Breath. And from that beginning we see our birth. From that beginning we see our salvation. From that beginning we see our source of life.

**People: Come Heavenly Father. Come Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Come to us now.**

Pastor: For the promise of our salvation, the ember of life still burning, is Christ Jesus who comes as one of us, who comes to save us, who comes to lead us into the light. On the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took the bread, and gave thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant which is in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me" ...For as long as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

**People: By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at His heavenly banquet. Through God and with God and in God is all glory and honor, all life and light, now and forever. Amen.**

\*SPOKEN HYMN

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

\*BENEDICTION and COMMISSION

by 2020 Nathan Nettleton

Pastor: Go now, strengthened by the testimony of Christ. Keep alert and wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Continue to do right and remember God in your ways. And may God enrich you in speech and knowledge of every kind; May Christ Jesus strengthen you to the end; And may the Holy Spirit guide you in faithful living until he comes.

**People: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.**

RESPONSE:

*Shalom to You*

**Sha-lom to you now, sha-lom my friends.**

**May God's full mer-cies bless you, my friends.**

**In all you liv-ing and through your lov-ing,**

**Christ be your sha-lom, Christ be your sha-lom.**

\*POSTLUDE

Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich  
(Let all together praise our God)

Johann Gottfried Walther

\*All stand if possible +All kneel or sit to pray

We express appreciation to...

Rev. Glen Esler- liturgist; Mark Olson - PowerPoint;

Phyllis Conrad - Organist and special music.

...And to all those who helped with this service.

SERMON OUTLINE: *Baby Samuel: The Peace of God*

2nd Sunday of Advent: December 6, 2020

Scripture: I Samuel 1: 1-17

Hannah, Elkanah, Peninnah

Peace is lived through a promise overcoming the turmoil of relationships within family and even between nations.

Advent is a season to step back and look beyond our own moment, our recent experience or even our present desires, our "lists."

Peace shaped in the womb of life, molded in the setting of experiences of pain and healing... of bitterness and love, through healing and redemption.

"Am I not better to you than 10 sons?!"

Peace doesn't come simply by the silencing of wickedness, it comes in the healing of the broken-hearted.

Does God still say - "Am I not enough?"

***In seasons of distress and grief,***

***My soul has often found relief***

*And oft escaped the tempter's snare*

*By thy return, sweet hour of prayer! [THAT'S PEACE!]*

***...Of those whose anxious spirits burn***

***With strong desires for thy return!***

*With such I hasten to the place*

*Where God my Savior shows His face,*

*And gladly take my station there,*

*And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

## Calendar for Week of 12/06/20

### SUNDAY

**8:30 - Drive In Worship [Parking Lot]**

9:45 - Live Stream Contemporary (& recorded for on line)

9:45 - Sunday School [zoom]

11:00 - Traditional Worship [recorded]

6-8 - Youth Night [zoom]

### MONDAY

1-4:30 Prayer Ministry Team [Forge Room]

6-8 - Living Gift Market (Heifer Int.) Card pick-up

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

7:00 am - Prayer & Sacrament [sanctuary]

7:00 pm—Celebrate Recovery

(contact Jason [jgillhoolley@gmail.com](mailto:jgillhoolley@gmail.com)

or Andrea [agillhoolley717@gmail.com](mailto:agillhoolley717@gmail.com) )

### THURSDAY

9-10 - Cancer Society picking up their Poinsettias

12:30-4 - Prayer Ministry [Forge Room]

5:00 - Contemporary Worship Design Team

5:30 - Traditional Worship Design Team

6:30-8:30 - Young Adult Group [zoom]

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

9:00 - Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

**6:00 - Drive In Worship [Parking Lot]**

### SUNDAY

**8:30 - Drive In Worship [Parking Lot]**

9:45 - Live Stream Contemporary (& recorded for on line)

9:45 - Sunday School [zoom]

11:00 - Traditional Worship [recorded]

6-8 - Youth Night [zoom]