

OUR CHURCH FAMILY AT WORSHIP

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2022

11:00 A.M.

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

**Please sign the red pads and pass it onto the next person in your pew.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Robert Lau

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: A voice cries out:

**People: Prepare for God's arrival!**

Liturgist: Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.

**People: Fill in the valleys, level off the hills.**

Liturgist: Smooth out the ruts, and clear out the rocks.

**People: For our God is coming!**

**All: Let's worship together!**

\*HYMN

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

No. 209

OPENING PRAYER (seated)

Unison: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait, filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness. We wait, anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world. We wait, embracing your love, that we may share it with our neighbors. We wait, with joy bubbling over, in expectation of your birth. Lord, we wait. Come soon and fill us with your life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Micah 5:2-5*

Liturgist: The Word of God for God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Response

*The King of Glory Comes* [refrain]

**The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in the Living God**

**who is directly involved in the affairs of the world.**

**We believe that God chooses the meek and the poor,  
to shame the proud and the rich.**

**We believe in the incarnate Word,**

**leaping in a woman's womb, cradled in poverty.**

**We believe in Jesus, true son of Mary, true Son of God,**

**who came among us in weakness, that we might come to know the profound  
strength available to common people who turn to God in trust and with love.**

**Yes, my friends, this we truly believe.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

*Candles of Advent*

Price/Besig

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Terry and Lorene Woodnorth

Advent Song

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

No. 211 vs.5

**O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home.**

**The captives from their prison free,  
and conquer death's deep misery.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:4-6

MESSAGE

*"Nothing Is Too Small for God"*

Pastor Janet Saddel

\*HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*

No. 250

AN INVITATION TO PRAY

+Prayer of Confession

Pastor: We can no longer play innocent. Not only do we know the lives we are called to lead, we are also well aware of how often we fail - through our words as well as our silence, by our deeds and our unwillingness to act. Let us confess to the God who comes to us:

People: **You call us to live with you, but we are too busy right now to listen. We flock to the stores run by temptation and seduction, seeking the best prices. We rush to judge everyone and everything around us, while we ask you to be more patient with our repeated errors. We**

**feast at the table piled high with broken promises and drink from the cup of fading dreams. Yet you continue to cry out to us with a broken heart, speaking to us of your love. Thank you for your forgiveness, a gift for every moment, not just one day. Thank you for your hope, our constant companion as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who is your Messenger of mercy.**

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Sung Response

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

No. 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.**

**God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Vom Himmelhoch, da komm ich her*

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

(From Heaven to Earth I Come)

\*Congregational Response

(sung to the First Noel)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel**

\*HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

No. 230

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us. God comes!

**People: God comes to gift us with peace, God comes to save us. Thanks be to God.**

**All: Amen**

\*ORGAN RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Praise to the Almighty God*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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



United Methodist

**Church of the  
Good Shepherd**

*"connecting to broken and hurting people"*

Reverend Janet Sadel, Lead Pastor

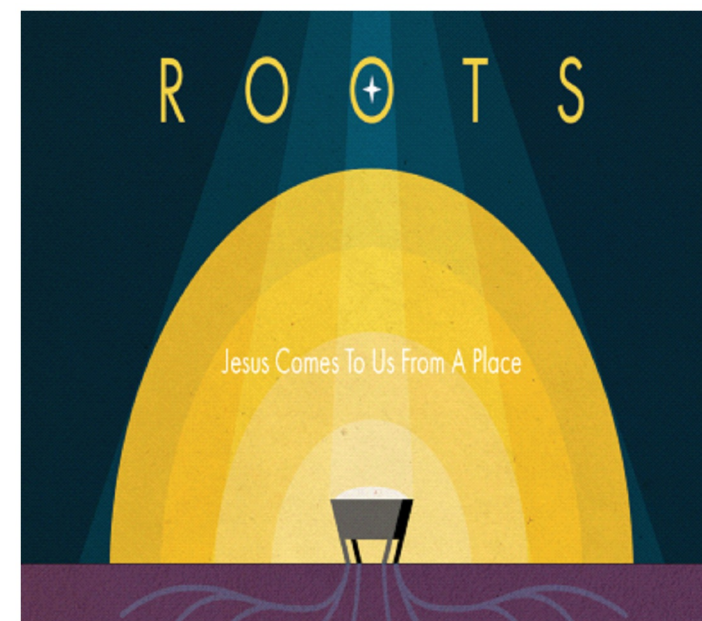
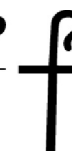
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Reverend Lisa Flory, Pastor

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## TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

*Celebration of Faith*



**Nothing is Too Small for God**

December 11, 2022

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

11:00 A.M.

1500 Quentin Road / Lebanon, PA 17042

church: 717-272-7741 / www.umcogs.org

*The altar flowers this morning are presented by Carolyn Haskell  
in memory of her husband, Robert Haskell.*

Calendar for Week of 12/11/2022

We thank all those who helped with the service this morning.

Liturgist: Terry Woodnorth

Advent Candle Reading/Lighting: Terry and Lorene Woodnorth

Sermon Outline:

ROOTS: Nothing Is Too Small for God

Micah 5:2-5; Matthew 2:4-6

Pastor Janet Sadel

The town of Bethlehem is mentioned a few times in scripture, an important focus is in the book of Ruth. Ruth marries Boaz, bears a son they name him Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of King David.

God chose an outsider, a common woman, a widower through whom to work his mighty power. See 1 Corinthians 1:27-28

David was the least likely of the sons of Jesse to be chosen as King. God does not choose what the world would choose. David was a man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22). It is from his heart that the branch would come, the one that was long hoped for, the Messiah.

The prophet Micah wrote that the Messiah would not only come from Jesse, father of King David, and therefore from the line of David, but that he would be birthed in Bethlehem, a tiny city set on a hill. The prophet Micah said "you are by no means least" – Bethlehem surely felt small and insecure. God works through the small things in life, through insignificant towns and people considered insignificant to the world.

In this we can take heart, for when we feel small and insignificant, remember the little town of Bethlehem. This would be the birthplace of the King of kings. God would choose this tiny place in which to come in flesh to save the world.

Whenever we feel vulnerable, remember that God uses the weak and powerless of this world to make his power known.

If you are feeling lost and unimportant in this season of Advent, remember that God still speaks and acts through those with a heart for God.

## **SUNDAY**

8:30 / 9:45 - Contemporary [Worship Center]

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]

11:00 - Parenting SS Class [Lounge]

11:00 - Pageant Practice [WC]

4:00 - CR Step Study [Lounge/Choir rm]

5:00 - see Youth Announcements

5:00 - Christmas Pageant

## **MONDAY**

10am - Staff Meeting

6:00 - CR Praise band rehearsal [WC]

7:00 - Church Council Meeting [Hall]

## **TUESDAY**

7:00 - Book Study [Lounge]

## **WEDNESDAY**

8:30-11:30 - MLLC [rms 200/202]

7:00 - Celebrate Recovery

7:00 - Traditional Choir Rehearsal [Sanctuary]

## **THURSDAY**

5:00 - Contemporary Design Team

5:30 - Traditional Design Team

## **FRIDAY**

## **SATURDAY**

9:00 - Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

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4:00 - CR Step Study [Lounge/Choir rm]