

***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
December 1, 2024***

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – “HOPE GROWS”**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

### **GATHERING SONG**

*“This is the Day”*

### **UNISON WELCOME**

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here”

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*“The peace of Christ be with you”*

*“And also with you”*

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY & PRELUDE**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*from “From the Manger”*

Sojourners of faith, today we begin the journey to Bethlehem, to the city called “House of Bread.”

**We take one step toward Christmas, the first step of many.**

**Let this journey transform us from beginning to end.**

Whether your belly is full or empty, whether your heart is broken or whole, look toward the manger, toward the stars over the city of David, and find hope.

**We look with hope because Christ is coming**

**to fill hearts and satisfy bellies with goodness and peace.**

Come, let us worship as we journey to the House of Bread, where our Brother and Friend will be born.

**Glory to God, there is hope today. Let us worship!**

#### **\*HYMN #79**

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

#### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

*from “From the Manger”*

Loving God, we rehearse this beloved story, year after year, because, in this world where people are hungry and creation is suffering, the story gives us hope—that all people will be fed and creation will be restored! We gather to worship in this season of hopeful expectation, knowing you are faithful to meet us here in song, prayer, and scripture. Nourish our hearts as we worship, and prepare us to serve the hungry around us. Amen.

#### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Judy, Alahna, and Owen Hodges

(All): Compassionate God, when we look outward, the season of Advent heightens our awareness of the hunger in the world around us. Just as Jesus came to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people, you also call us to that high and holy task. Increase our willingness to serve and our capacity to show generosity and compassion. May our actions reflect the character of Jesus, who fed people everywhere he went. Transform us to be your hands and feet, feeding the hungry and comforting the afflicted. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*from "From the Manger"*

Loving God, as we turn our hearts and minds to your message for us today, illuminate the scriptures before us. We begin the season of Advent and remember the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, laid in a manger in Bethlehem, the town called "House of Bread." Open our eyes to the profound mystery of the Bread of Life born to dwell among us. As we recall the birth and life of Jesus, may we be transformed by the deep connection between the manger and the miracles, between the humble beginnings and the abundant provision. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we pray. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**ANTHEM**

*"My Lord, What a Morning"*

arr. Greg Gilpin

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Roxanne Davenport

*Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2:7; Matthew 14:13-21

**SERMON**

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)**

**INVITATION TO GIVING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

**Hope in the God who reigns above,  
who holds us all in steadfast love;  
whose spirit blows across the earth,  
preparing us for second birth. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*from "From the Manger"*

Generous God, these gifts and offerings are a tangible expression of our hope in Christ. May they nourish those who hunger and spread your love and justice. Bless our giving, inspire us to share with compassion, and help us to trust in your abundant provision. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

(liturgy on screen)

*We celebrate communion this day by intinction, coming forward to the altar to receive the bread and cup. Pre-packaged elements are also available.*

**\*HYMN #723 (insert)**

*"Canticle of the Turning"*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF HOPE**

*from "From the Manger" (on screen)*

**\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

*from "From the Manger"*

**POSTLUDE (seated)**

*All are welcome at Christ's table. To let the church office know that you communed today, please sign the black attendance pad found in each row. If you are communing from home, please contact the church office to let us know.*

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available. See the deacon for assistance.

Please join us for coffee hour after worship!

**Birthdays this week:** 12/03 Jeanne Welch; 12/04 Robert Lewis and Stephanie Brown; 12/05 Mary Moyer and Chani Wolfe; 12/08 Judith Patterson

<b>Worship Participants:</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Mike Blumberg
Lector	Henry Hopper
Children's Corner	
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz
Bulletin cover	John (traqair57) on Flickr

**The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross** are given to the glory of God.



**St. John's Vision**

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ as a congregation that welcomes everyone, and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

**St. John's Mission**

To grow in love of God and neighbor

**Worship Resources:**

*"From the Manger" Advent liturgy © 2024 Illustrated Ministry*

*Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi*

## **NEWS IN THE PEWS December 1, 2024**

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, [pastor@sjucc1811.org](mailto:pastor@sjucc1811.org) (641) 260-1868 (cell)  
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist  
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth  
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

#### **Monday, December 2**

10:00 am Meditation Class – Parlor Room 104

3:00 pm Advent Book Study – Conference Room 111

#### **Tuesday, December 3**

6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm Amistad Praise Band Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

#### **Wednesday, December 4**

6:00 pm Spiritual Council Meeting – Room 116

7:00 pm Consistory – Room 116

7:00 pm Midweek Advent Service - Fayetteville Otterbein Church (61 W. Main Street, 17222)

#### **Thursday, December 5**

7:00 am Men's Breakfast – Texas Lunch

6:00 pm Bell Choir – Choir Room 103

6:30 pm Girl Scouts – Room 116

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

#### **Friday, December 6**

5:00 pm Colonial Christmas Show – Fellowship Hall

#### **Saturday, December 7**

9:00 am Cookie Walk – Fellowship Hall

5:00 pm Colonial Christmas Show – Fellowship Hall

#### **Sunday, December 8**

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119

8:45 am Spark! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115

8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Youth Room 206

8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116

10:00 am Sunday Service – Sanctuary

1:30 pm Christmas Caroling (meet at Fellowship Hall)

**Angel Tree** Gifts are due back to the church no later than Friday, December 6.

**Holiday Gift Program** Gifts should be returned to the office no later than Monday, 12/2.

**Cookie Walk** Our annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Purchase homemade cookies to benefit homeless children in the Chambersburg School District for \$10/lb. Bring your cookies to the kitchen on Dec. 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. A sign-up sheet for bakers is at the Welcome Center. Contact Roxanne with questions.

**Advent Book Study** Join Pastor Caroline on Mondays December 2, 9 and 16 at 3pm in Conference Room 111 for a book study on "Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities" by Rebecca Solnit. Please make sure to purchase the edition with a new forward & afterward.

**Staff Christmas Gift** It is the tradition at St. John's UCC to have a special offering envelope designated for Christmas Gifts for Church Staff. Our staff are a true blessing to our church. If you wish to take part, please submit your envelope designated staff Christmas gift to the church office no later than Sunday, December 8 in order for our staff to receive this gift by Christmas.

**Pajama Drive** St. John's Nursery School is hosting a pajama drive through December 4. If you would like to participate, please send in a set of brand new pajamas. For every pair of PJs, the nursery school will donate a new children's book to Little Daisy's Closet.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** Check out a new opportunity to spread holiday cheer this year! More information is available in the December Spirit.

**Operation Dishwasher** Thank you for your support to replace the dishwasher in the church kitchen. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We're nearly to our campaign goal of \$20,000!

**Victorian Christmas** Join us for an evening of entertainment presented by Discover Dance Works here at St. John's in Fellowship Hall on December 6 & 7. There will be a \$10 fee for adults. For more information call 717-414-1166 or email DiscoverDanceWorks1@gmail.com

**Blue Christmas** Our community Blue Christmas service will be held on Saturday, December 21 at 3pm at St. John's UCC. Join us as we experience hope and healing in the midst of darkness.

**Midweek Advent Services** Upcoming services will be Wednesday, December 11, Mont Alto UMC (10 S. Main Street, Mont Alto, PA 17237); Wednesday, December 18, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fayetteville (44 E. Main Street, Fayetteville, PA 17222). All services will be held at 7 pm.


**Christmas Eve Worship Services** will be at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall & 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Assistant Email Clarification** If you are trying to send something to our office assistant, please use the email [assistant@sjucc1811.org](mailto:assistant@sjucc1811.org).


**Silent Night, Holy Night** Actors are needed to help portray the Christmas story on Christmas Eve (both 5 pm & 7 pm). Sign up and more information are on the Youth Bulletin Board.

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

79




1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by Thine  
 3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; fill



til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 cause us in her ways to go.  
 all the world with heav - en's peace.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn; tr. John Mason Neale (sts. 1, 2), 1851;  
 Henry Sloane Coffin (sts. 3, 4), 1916  
 MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

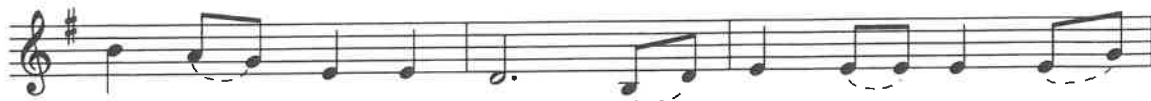
VENI EMMANUEL  
 LM with refrain

## Canticle of the Turning

## Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



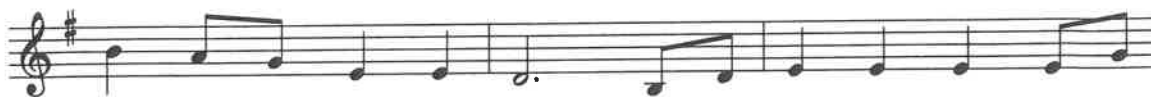
God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



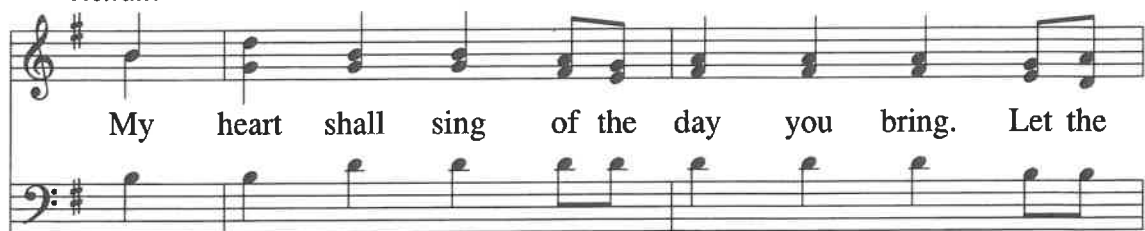
weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be



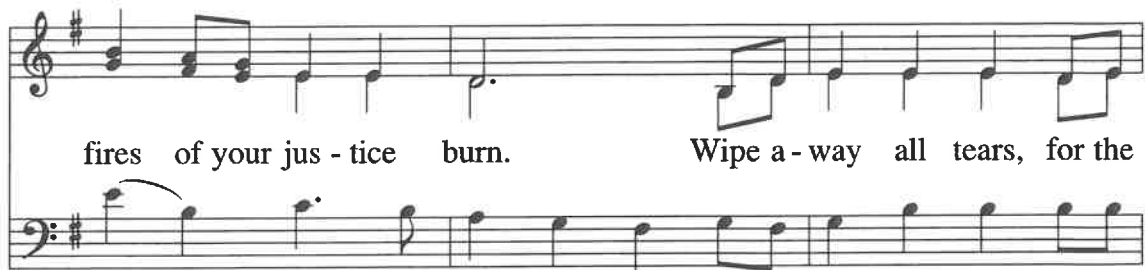
name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



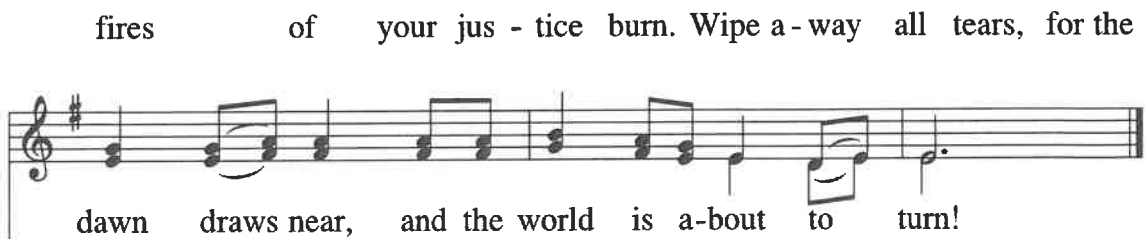
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the  
dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952  
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952  
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