

Advent 3 Worship at 9:30 a.m.

December 14, 2025

Worship Notes

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people's parts are indicated by **bold type**. The red hardback hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book, and are numbered at the top of each hymn. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!

A warm welcome whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.

Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the Parsonage at 267-362-8129.

Gathering

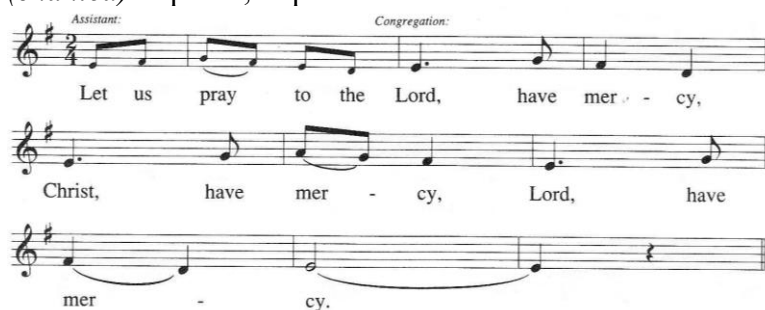
PRELUDE: Worship and prayer announcements, time for prayer and centering our hearts on God.

Please stand, as you are able, at pastor's invitation.

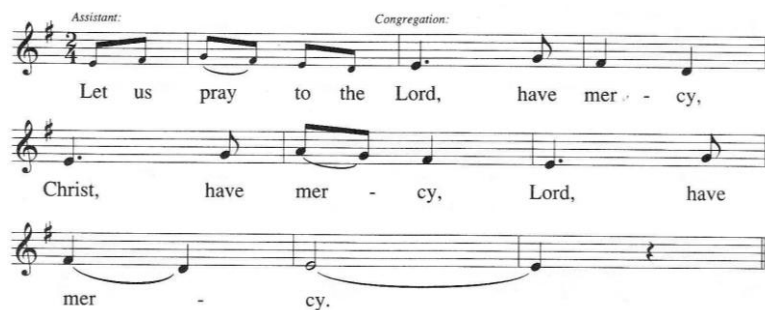
PROCESSION OF LIGHT / CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

KYRIE, #157 ELW

(*chanted*) In peace, in peace...



For the reign of God and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all ... **REFRAIN**



For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word...*REFRAIN*



The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of our Baptism.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.
who lifts up the lowly, and fills the hungry with good things.
And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever!

As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and
seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of steadfast love, **we confess that we look to ourselves**
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to seek your ways to resolve our conflicts.
We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from the illusion of self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in Your timing, awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

Hear the glad tidings of God!
The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored to wholeness;
By the mercy of almighty God, and by his authority,
I tell you your sins are forgiven.
May you know joy in the Savior's coming,
and hope for the days to come,
in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WE SING THE GATHERING SONG ELW #248, PEOPLE LOOK EAST (NEXT PAGE)



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. *Silence. Pastor offers the Prayer of the Day – we join our hearts in prayer. The prayer concludes:*
 ... through Jesus, our Emmanuel, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

The Third Candle is lit. Please be seated.

Word

Please be seated. Silence for reflection follows each reading.

THE FIRST READING is from Isaiah, the 35th chapter. (Isaiah 35:1-10)

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!"

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people;

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM, Luke 1, is read responsively.

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING is from James, the 5th chapter. (James 5:7-10)

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL SONG: ELW #290, “Go Tell it On the Mountain”

Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go! Tell it on the Mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

From old the prophets promised the Savior Christ would come.

The Word made flesh, Emmanuel, to make with us a home.

Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go! Tell it on the Mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

(Matthew 11:2-11)

Glory to you, O Lord!

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

RESPONSE:

Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go! Tell it on the Mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Please join Pastor in silent prayer as we prepare for:

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

WE SING HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #251, MY SOUL PROCLAIMS



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress
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Following the hymn, please stand at Pastor's invitation.

Let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Looking forward to Christ's coming with hope, we pray for our church and community, and for all awaiting justice, wholeness and peace.

A brief silence.

*We pray for the world, our community, and our church. Each petition concludes with: ...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

The prayers conclude:

...made in the name of Emmanuel, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Deal

THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

Feel free to step out of your pew! Following the peace, please be seated.

OFFERTORY/ANTHEM

*We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies.
In house the offering is gathered and presented at the altar. Joining us online, tithes and offerings
may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.*

At Pastor's invitation we stand and sing the OFFERTORY.



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray –*Silence*- God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our hope and our peace. Amen.

The Table is prepared as we pray and prepare our hearts.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, it is our duty and our great joy to praise You, O God, for Jesus the Word made flesh, the One who is the Alpha and Omega, our light in the darkness, who restores our hope and renews our joy.

For in the night in which He was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As we reach out for these gifts of Bread and Wine we trust his promise to come again, waiting in hope for that day when all creation will rejoice in His holy and life-giving light: **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Come, Lord Jesus! Bless us and this meal, that we may be light for the world. Hear us as we join our voices in obedience and hope to pray:

**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; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is Emmanuel, the gift of God-with-Us. My brothers and sisters, come to the Table, for all is now ready!
We shall come with joy, alleluia, amen!

THE COMMUNION

All who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that He is truly present in the forms of bread and wine are invited to commune. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation that you wish.

The musicians will be communed first. Then the congregation comes forward by the center aisle, the organ side first, and then the pulpit side. Receive the Host (bread) from Pastor, with the words, 'The body of Christ, given for you.' The assistant offers the chalice of wine for intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine) with the words: 'The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen. Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Anyone, child or adult, who does not wish to take communion is invited to come forward, hands folded, to receive a blessing, or remain seated and commune by prayer.

When all have communed, the post-communion canticle (below) is sung while the Table is cleared, followed by silence for prayer and reflection

The hymn during communion is #528, Come and Fill Our Hearts.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Please stand at Pastor's invitation.

Sending

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. -*Silence*- Lord of light, God of eternity:

We thank you for this Holy Meal, and for the Word which has come to shine in us.

**As we go out into the world you love, help us carry the gifts of God to all people,
in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the announcements, at pastor's invitation, please stand.

BENEDICTION

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

**Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

WE SING THE SENDING HYMN, ELW #264, PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



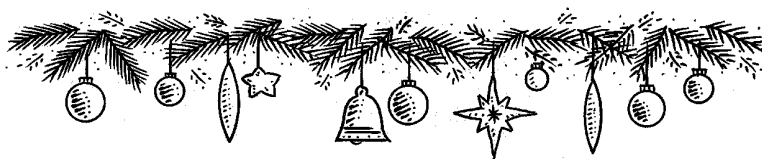
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress
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DISMISSAL Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

Please join us in the parlor for refreshments after worship.



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
353 E. Dark Hollow Rd, Pipersville PA 18947

The Rev. Marie Caron, Pastor
Mr. Brian Maddux, Council President
Mrs. Cynthia Carper, Parish Secretary

215. 766. 8730 office
267. 362. 8129 parsonage

www.christpipersville.org + christpipersville@gmail.com

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DECEMBER WEB SITE AND BULLETINS are sponsored by Connie Kallenbach in memory and honor of those who have inspired and led us along the way. May God Bless America!

WE WELCOME Rich Spotts as our organist this morning and thank him for his musical leadership.

LECTOR: John Cole

FELLOWSHIP:

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

CHILDREN will be dismissed to Sunday School following the Gospel reading to rehearse for the December 21st family Christmas pageant and chime performance.

FAITH MATCH: An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$1,000.00 in extra giving to help end the year on a positive financial note. You may place your gift in one of the specially marked envelopes on the table by the sanctuary doors or use any envelope noting it's for the faith challenge. Thank you for your support!

ANNUAL REPORTS from all committees and organizations are due in the church office by December 31st. Annual financial reports would be appreciated by January 10th. Thank you.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available on the table by the sanctuary doors. Please pick up your own and any you are able to deliver. If you didn't receive a box, but would like one, please see Cindy Carper.

A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY with updated addresses and phone numbers (no photos) is to be published early next year. Your help by verifying your address and phone number with the church office would be appreciated or see Cindy after worship.

The Week of December 14th at a Glance

- Sun. 12/14 The 3rd Sunday in Advent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship, Sunday School
10:30AM Fellowship Period
- Tues. 12/16 Happy Anniversary, Jerry and Delana Woodward!
- Wed. 12/17 11AM Ensemble
- Thur. 12/18 8:30AM Morning Prayer, 9:00AM Bible Study
Happy Birthday, Diane Kallenbach!
- Fri. 12/19 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Happy Birthday, Blake Reinard!
- Sun. 12/21 The 4th Sunday in Advent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship, Family Christmas Pageant
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Happy Birthday, Karen Harmon!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship December 24, 2025

7:30 p.m. Christmas Prelude Concert
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service