



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent - "Peace"

Emily Foreman - Leads Worship
Michelle Cosgrove- Accompanist

Second Sunday of ADVENT

A time of waiting
& watching, a
season where we
focus on the light
that will enter the
darkness.

Let's prepare
alongside
each other by
becoming
present in the
here and now.

PEACE

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Floyd and Penny Hersh, Judy Marquart and Ernest and Grace Leister presented by Joanne Hersh and Family.

PRELUDE Blue Book #626: People Look East

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (Please rise in body or in spirit.)
All make the sign of the cross, as the Leader begins:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.
Teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Strengthen our trust in your plan and your timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us in Christ Jesus,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own
righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

The Greeting

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

Song: Green Book #30: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Prayer of the Day (Leader)

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. (Please be seated)

(All young people and their parents are invited to come to the front to share in the lighting of the Advent wreath)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Leader)

Today is the Second Sunday in Advent. In lighting the second candle in the Wreath, we are reminded of the Peace we have in Christ - that He frees us from our sins, restoring our relationship with God and each other.

Responsive Reading: (Leader) (from Psalm 85)

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

¹²The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.**

The Blessing: (Leader)

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound over all the earth and that none hurt or destroy.

Amen.

(The candle is lit by the Assistant. The angel is placed in the manger.)

Song: Green Book #34 - Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (verses 1 & 2)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Isaiah 11:1-10 (Assistant)

Our Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the eleventh chapter

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
- He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 72 (Assistant)

Please read responsively with me from Psalm 72

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance
of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**¹⁸ Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen, Amen.

Romans 15:1-13 (Assistant)

Our New Testament reading is from Romans, the fifteenth chapter:

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so
that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might
have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that
together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for
the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the
circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the
promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for
his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,
"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,
"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that
you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please rise in body or in spirit)



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12 (Leader)

The Gospel is from St. Matthew, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

(Please be seated)

INTERLUDE – Children exit for Sunday School

THE MESSAGE - Emily Foreman

SONG OF THE DAY God Will Make A Way Don Moen/©1990,2006 Integrity's Hosanna!
Music/CCLI#1083898

Chorus: God Will Make a way where there seems to be no way,
He works in ways we cannot see,
He will make a way for me.
He will be my guide. Hold me closely to His side,
with love and strength for each new day,
He will make a way, He will make a way.

By a roadway in the wilderness He'll lead me
And rivers in the desert will I see
Heaven and earth will fade
But His Word will still Remain
He will do something new today

Chorus

CREED (Assistant: Please rise in body or in spirit)

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith, sharing together
the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Assistant)

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting
your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

(Allow for a brief silence.)

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of those in need we pray that in your steadfast love, you will receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring all who suffer into your healing presence. We pray especially for those on our prayer list, those on the bulletin board ornaments, those recovering from surgery and medical procedures, and all those whom we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

(allow for brief silence...)

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you all!

And also with you!

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

SONG Sanctuary (4x) 3rd verse acapella CCLI License No. 108389

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true:
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you. (4x)

(Please rise in body or in spirit.)

SONG Offering (Shortened)

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love;
There is no shadow in Your presence;
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne.
Before the Holy One of Heaven;
It's only by Your blood and it's only thro' Your mercy, Lord, I come

I bring an offering of worship to my King;
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing;
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due;
O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

OFFERING PRAYER (Leader; please rise in body or in spirit)
Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through our worship, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice
and be water for the world signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

THE BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CONGREGATION

SONG Everlasting God Words & Music by Brenton Brown & Ken Riley 2005 Thankyou Music

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Our God, you reign forever - Our hope, our strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God
You do not faint, You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Repeat

DISMISSAL (Leader)

Go in peace. Keep awake

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Everlasting God

We Remember in Prayer:

Joyce Allebach
Heather Cammann
Justin Cogan
Pastor Kevin Compton
Nancy Esterly
Donna Gerhart
Mary Lynn Gluck
Barbara Green
Glen & Rose Greenawald
The Gunden Family
Dave Hamblin
Janet Hill
Sue & Tom Lang

Frances Lechner
Melissa Leinback
Becky McIntosh
Tully Meehan
Sally Mixer
Tricia Parker
Peggy
Juliet Pennay
Justin Redfield
Peter Reigner
Doris Renninger
Alan Richard
Donna Rodenberger

Margie Rodenberger
Gladys Sands
Margarita Serbia
Linda Shagg
John Sheeran
Beth Ann Thomas
Ryan Weaver
Larry Weiss
Linda Wood
Dave Woodward
Rick Yocum & Family
Janet Zylinsy

Thank You to our worship assistant Jenn Eisenberger; our ushers, Pat Walter & Eric Virus; our musician Michelle Cosgrove; and the Foremans for streaming. Thanks to our flower sponsors and all who help with worship.

Announcements & Events

Please take your 2026 Full Year Giving Envelopes books home with you. They are in the narthex in boxes alphabetically. We save a lot on every book we don't have to mail. If you live near or are friends with someone whose book is still here, we would be grateful if you would take it to them.

Poinsettia orders are due by tomorrow morning. Please be sure to get yours to the office. No late orders can be accepted. The plants can be taken home with you after the 7pm service on Christmas Eve.

Prayer Tree Bulletin Board: Visit the Fellowship hallway and add a prayer to our bulletin board. Take an ornament, gift, or Snowflake from the box, and write a prayer on it, then place it on the bulletin board to help us fill the season with prayers that we can all keep in mind this holiday season.

Our Food Pantries are in need, the Open Link has a long list of necessary items. It would be wonderful if you could please consider donating. The list is on our bulletin boards.

Come to the Tree Lighting & Caroling Celebration at St. Paul's on Friday December 12, 2025 at 6:30PM. Spread cheer through song and share hot cocoa, cookies and games. RSVP to Laura or Bob Foreman 215-272-1445 or foreman3@hotmail.com Singing in tune is not required, all are welcome!

Please remember to return your Warm Hearts Tree gifts by December 12, 2025. They should be unwrapped and with the tag from the tree. Thanks.

Join us for the next Taize Worship at NewGoshenhoppen UCC on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 6PM.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event is here in January 2026! The Reformation Sister Congregations in the Upper Perkiomen Valley are hosting along with Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, January 25 at St. Paul's-Red Hill. Each church is providing people to help, St. Paul's will need

- 1 person for set up (12 noon -1:30 PM) - requires heavy lifting
- 5 people for meal packaging from 1:30-2:45 PM
- 5 people for meal packaging from 3:15-4:30 PM

The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the office hallway. Thanks!

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON,
UPCCC & ST. PAUL'S ELC ARE GIVING BACK TO:



UPPER PERKIOMEN
HOMELESSNESS COALITION
A Local Response to a Local Need
www.upperperkiomencollege.org



HELP US BRING JOY AND CHEER TO LOCAL
FAMILIES IN NEED!

Donation tags are located on
our giving tree found in the
Fish Tank/School Age
hallway beginning
Sunday, November 23rd

Please return all
unwrapped gifts with the
tag to the office by
Friday, December 12th.

Longest Night Services

WORSHIP CENTERED ON PEACE
HOPE AND HEALING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

2:00 PM - ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
1244 St. Paul's Church Road, Pennsburg, PA

6:00 PM - ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
3104 Main Street, Green Lane, PA

SPONSORED BY THE SEVEN SISTER CHURCHES OF THE UPPER PERKIOMEN VALLEY
St. John's Lutheran, Summeytown - New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville -
Pennsburg UCC - Friedens UCC, Summeytown - Palm Schwenkfelder Church, East
Greenville - St. Mark's Lutheran, Pennsburg - St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hill

You're Invited to
Christmas **at St. Paul's Lutheran!**
All Are Welcome

Annual Caroling & Tree Lighting - December 12th at 6:30 PM at St. Paul's. We will carol in the local neighborhood. Cookies & cocoa at the church to follow.

Longest Night Service - December 21st at 2PM at St. Paul's Lutheran in Pennsburg (or 6PM at St. John's Lutheran in Green Lane)

Christmas Eve, December 24th - Early Worship at 1:30 PM. Music begins at 1:00PM
Our Evening Candelight Service begins at 7:00 PM

Service of Readings and Carols - December 28th at 9:00 AM
Feel free to wear pajamas if you like.

GPS: 1244 St. Paul's Church Road - Pennsburg, PA 18073
Call with any questions: 215-679-5553 ext 110