

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Perkasie, Pennsylvania

Rev. Barbara Pence

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Website: [www.standrewsucc.org](http://www.standrewsucc.org)

9:00 am Faith Formation

10:15 am Worship Service

December 14, 2025

Liturgist: Ron Grace

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

GREETING

*If able, please rise in body or in spirit*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

**Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"**

Mary said, "How can this be?"

**We often say, "But God, I am afraid."**

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

**So may we trust the Inviter.**

May we heed God's invitation.

**May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.**

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God.

Hymn #171 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

*Please be seated*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We are tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on.

But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes," we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Family of faith,

no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day.

So join me in declaring this good news:

**We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.**

**May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR

A Prayer for Advent

Williams/Nolan

ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING

*Light two blue candles*

SING #165 vs. 1 & 2 When God Is a Child

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

**We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs. We see joy when justice brings liberation and life to our neighbors.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here.

Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

*Light pink candle.*

**Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE #165 vs. 3 When God Is a Child

WHITE GIFTS SERVICE

The Advent Wreath Christmas Program

Sparkhouse

HYMN #185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. Spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Luke 1:26-39

The word of the Lord.

**Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.**

Meditation

*If able, please rise in body or in spirit.*

Hymn #584 Come, Celebrate the Call of God

*Please be seated*

Koinonia Time (community; communion; fellowship; intimacy)

(Please date, sign, and pass the pew pad to your neighbors)

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator/Mother/Father/Spirit, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

There is a simple joy to be found in sharing what we have. Regardless of how much or how little that may be, a portion belongs to God. What God desires is not an altar of sacrifices, but an outstretched hand. Give what you can, and delight in the joy your gift will bring.

OFFERTORY

*If able, please stand in body or in spirit*

Offertory Response

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

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

**Praise God above, you heavenly host.**

**Praise Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Precious God, take these gifts in the spirit they were given, with joy and love for our siblings near and far. We bring before you our gifts for the residents of Phoebe Home and Bethany Children's Home. Use what we have here to bring that joy where it is needed most. Amen**

Hymn #167 Long Ago, Prophets Knew

BENEDICTION

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.

May you reach for each other's hands.

May you choose courage whenever you can.

And in all things, may you remember

that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls,

the one who sends, and the one who journeys with us—

go in peace and **be not afraid**. Amen.

*Please be seated*

Postlude

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Portions of today's liturgy are reprinted from Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*, Copyright 2015 and *What Do You Fear: Insisting on Hope This Advent*, Words for Worship Advent-Epiphany, *Worship and Prayers* by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | *sanctifiedart.org*." and Sparkhouse Digital @2024.

Filming Disclosure: Our services are filmed and recorded for online viewers. As congregant's faces may be captured, your entry into the Sanctuary constitutes your consent to be photographed, filmed and/or otherwise recorded for streaming or social purposes.

Head Usher for December are Herb Volk and Ron Grace  
Ushers today are Doris Lindmeier and Ethel Detrich  
Altar Guild this week is Karen Gossard

Pastor Barb's contact information: Email – [pastorbarb90@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbarb90@gmail.com); Cell 267-374-5692

### Consistory 2025

Elders: Ron Grace, Doris Lindmeier, Lee Metzger (President), Karen Peterson  
Deacons: Robert Creager, Cindy Grace, Tara Howell, Lance Ide, Erin Rush,  
Herb Volk (Vice President)  
Consistory Secretary – Angela Stofflet; Treasurer – Jen Flexer

ADVENT

## 165 When God Is a Child

*Refrain*

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

1-3 4  
fraid. 1 Hope is a star that  
2 Peace is a rib - bon that  
3 Joy is a song that  
4 Love is a flame that

1-3 4  
fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936- )  
MUSIC: John Carter (1930- )  
Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company  
Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

GATES  
Irregular

ADVENT

shines in the night, cir - cles the earth, wel - comes the dawn, burns in our heart, lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright. When giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth. When tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born. When Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part. When

ADVENT

171 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

1 To a maid whose name was Ma - ry, the an - gel Gab - riel came.  
2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,  
3 But Ma - ry was most trou - bled to hear the an - gel's word.  
4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.  
5 "How shall this be?" said Ma - ry, "I am not yet a wife."  
6 As Ma - ry heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.

"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;  
who ev - en now is with you. You are on earth most blest;  
What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,  
His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.  
The an - gel an - swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High  
"Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.

good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."  
you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"  
to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou - bled her to hear.  
And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."  
will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."  
"So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

## 185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King:  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

MENDELSSOHN  
7.7.7.D.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

# Come, Celebrate the Call of God 584

*Unison*

1 Come, cel - e - brate the call of God that wak - ens and re - news,  
 2 A cho - sen one to - day re - plies, and fit and read - y stands.  
 3 Great Spir - it, give *her* word and breath in Christ to live and speak,

and choos - es from us, for our good, the bring - ers of good news.  
*\*Her* call - ing now we rec - og - nize with prayer and lov - ing hands,  
 and shield a - gainst the powers of death the out - cast and the weak,

The Spir - it's bless - ing all or - dains to show what God has done,  
 A ser - vant lead - er, truth - ful friend, we glad - ly will re - ceive,  
*her* flag of faith, a - bove de - feats, in heav - en's breeze un - furled,

yet brings to fo - cus and con - tains the man - y in the one.  
 to stir and com - fort, shake and mend, be glad with us, and grieve.  
 as all *her* deep - est glad - ness meets the hun - ger of the world.

\*For *her*, sing *his* when appropriate.

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936- )  
 MUSIC: Early American melody; arr. Hal H. Hopson (1933- )  
 Words and Music Arr. © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

ALIDA'S TUNE  
 C.M.D.

# 167 Long Ago, Prophets Knew

1 Long a - go, proph - ets knew Christ would come,  
 2 God in time, God in man, this is God's  
 3 Ma - ry, hail! Though a - fraid, she be - lieved,  
 4 Jour - ney ends! Where a - far Beth - lehem shines,

born a Jew, come to make all things new, bear his peo - ple's bur - den,  
 time - less plan: he will come, as a man, born him - self of wom - an,  
 she o - beyed. In her womb, God is laid till the time ex - pect - ed,  
 like a star, sta - ble door stands a - jar: un - born Son of Ma - ry,

*Refrain*

free - ly love and par - don.  
 God di - vine - ly hu - man.  
 nur - tured and pro - tect - ed. Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing,  
 Sav - ior, do not tar - ry!

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)  
 MUSIC: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; arr. Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

PERSONENT HODIE  
 6.6.6.6.6.Ref.

ADVENT

1-3 When he comes, when he comes, who will make him wel-come?  
sing, sing! 4 Je - sus comes, Je - sus comes, we will make him wel-come!

(8vb)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "1-3 When he comes, when he comes, who will make him wel-come? sing, sing! 4 Je - sus comes, Je - sus comes, we will make him wel-come!". The piano part is marked "(8vb)".



**...WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR,  
THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY..."**

**MATTHEW 2:10**

**Be the Light**

## Ministry and Light

From the many letters and stories the Pension Boards has received from those touched by gifts from The Christmas Fund, we share these words:

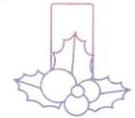


*Ministry is sharing the joy that bubbles up in one's being when they meet God, being able to transmit it to others. When you light a candle and there are many unlit candles around you, you use your own to spread light to the other candles... And then for me, God stepped in and said, 'Hey, I'm here to help. Don't worry.' So, my trust was placed in the One we should trust.*

*- Rev Carlos Aoun, Pastoral Resident  
Wellesley Congregational Village Church*

Thanks to your generosity, last year the Christmas Fund provided over \$1.3 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired church servants and their families.

Every gift came from people like you. This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who've devoted their lives to serving others.



This Christmas, celebrate the blessings in your life by making a gift to our ministers, church workers, and their families.

Visit [christmasfund.org](http://christmasfund.org) to learn more and donate online.



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