

PAXTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Zechariah and the Angel by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC

*In the time of Herod,
we long for God to break in*

November 30, 2025

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

“Variations on ‘Veni Emmanuel’”
“Divinum Mysterium”

-D. Lasky
- W. Held

WORSHIP PREPARATION

**In preparing for our worship together please quiet yourself
and allow God’s Spirit to ready your heart, mind, and soul.**

During this time, we invite you to sign the **guest book**, pass it down your row and back again and note friends and guests worshipping next to you. Please also complete a **prayer request card** at this time if you have a joy or concern for which you would like special prayers during the service. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.

GREETINGS AND NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

Praise the Lord!

The Lord’s name be praised!

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the darkness.

Advent is a time to remember that God’s love extends to all people.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.

Advent is a time to renew our determination.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.

Advent is a time to strive for understanding.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

* CANDLELIGHTING SONG – “Come, Lord Jesus, Come” -see music on page 6

***Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our sins and fears release; let us find our rest in thee.***

* PRAYER FOR ADVENT HOPE

Gracious God, we thank you for the promise of the scripture that through Christ, we have hope. Forgive our lack of faith and restore in our hearts the assurance that your love can conquer the tyranny of injustice in a broken world. We pray today that you would strengthen our faith in your mercy and righteousness so we can live in hope every day of our lives. Amen.

* HYMN - 88 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” v.1, 2, and 6

* GOD’S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS written by Sandra E. Graham

God of light, who shines in deepest darkness, we hear you calling us out of hopelessness into hope. But we are frightened by your call. We are afraid of taking chances; we are afraid of following your light, because it leads us into the places where you need us. We don’t want to see how your people hurt. We don’t want to see your light shining in the eyes of our neighbor. Yet we know that in those places your grace shines; help us to seek your light. Guide us in your way. Through the Light of the World, we pray. Amen. (Silent Confession) Amen.

* GOD’S ASSURANCE OF RECONCILIATION

* OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE - No. 581

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.***

* PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMS TO US

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Lamentations 3:55-57 (OT 938)

ANTHEM "Of the Father's Love Begotten" -arr. by Trevor Manor

READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 1:5-13 (NT 68)

SERMON "Longing for God"

HYMN -82 "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

THE WORD INVITES US

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation for the Offering

* Response of Praise - No. 606

***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. Amen.***

* Prayer of Dedication

Offertory "Savior of the Nations, Come"

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



-R. Powell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORD SENDS US

* HYMN -357 "The Days are Surely Coming"

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE "Prepare the Way, O Zion" -arr. P. Manz

The () indicates that those who are able may stand.
The words printed in ***bold face italics type*** are said by all.

CCLI#2707192

Please use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

Directing our worship today: Preacher, Pastor Margaret Poteet;
Worship Assistant, Kitti Taylor; Conversation with Our Children, Sam Frank;
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce;
Director of Youth Music, Andrew Vinton

NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God by Don and Anita Laughery.

PW THANK OFFERING "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43: 19 During the month of November, PW of Paxton will be collecting our annual Thank Offering. You may place your checks in the offering plate, clearly marked for PW Thank Offering or put them in the PW mailbox. Make your checks payable to **PW of Paxton**.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS Poinsettias will again be used for the poinsettia tree and to decorate the sanctuary this December. Anyone wishing to purchase a plant may do so by completing the form and returning it to the church office or placing it in the offering plate. Additional forms can be found outside the office. Each plant is \$10.00 with checks payable to Paxton Presbyterian Church accompanying each order. Please complete one for each plant purchased to simplify the printing of the dedication. The deadline to place an order is Sunday, December 7.

SANTA SHOP elves are busily working! Thank you for all your donations!! Our shops start December 2. One thing we ask you to KEEP BRINGING IN are 2026 calendars. We're a little short this year (Get it?) -The Elves

UNITY CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, December 2 at 12:00 noon. Our study is Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the Max Lucado book. Our lesson leader is Carol Himmelright. Please bring a dozen or more of Christmas cookies to share, pack a bag lunch, and bring your lesson book and change for the Least Coin collection. Beverages will be provided.

PW OUTIES AND UNDIES Coats, jackets, hats, gloves, new underwear and new socks were delivered to the Family Coordinator for the Harrisburg School District. Thanks, everyone!

BREAKFAST FOR TWO The Stewardship Ministry invites you to help support our neighbors in need by contributing to our Little Free Pantry. You can sponsor a Breakfast for Two meal bag for just \$3. We encourage you to visit the library before or after worship services on December 7th, 14th, or 21st to share the gift of food this holiday season. For more information, please contact Cindy Mory at 717-460-1142.

THANK YOU for every card, call, text, and prayer for healing following my recent wrist surgery. I'm so grateful for the love and support of my Paxton family. ~ Anita Laughery

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The Session has called a meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, December 14th immediately following the 10:30 am service of worship. The meeting is called for the purposes of presenting the 2026 budget, approving the 2026 terms of call for Rev. Poteet, electing new Elders and Deacons, and to nominate Members-at-Large to the Officer Nominating Committee. There will be a Zoom option available for those unable to attend in the Sanctuary.

MUSIC SUNDAY Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 14, for Paxton's Christmas Music Sunday when we celebrate "All Things Music"! Come and hear the Agape Choir sing, "Mary Did You Know?" and then be joined with the Adult choir for "Away in a Manger." The Bells will play, "On Christmas Night" and "And the Glory of the Lord" from The Messiah. Jeanne will play a big arrangement of "Carol of the Bells" on the organ and the Adult Choir will sing, "Noel We Sing" and Good Christian Men, Rejoice!"

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE The Christian Education Ministry invites the congregation and community to our Christmas Jubilee Sunday Dec 7th from 4-7pm. Invite your friends and neighbors for an evening that includes dinner, crafts for kids and adults, gingerbread houses, calm coloring, and a visit from St Nick. At 6:15pm we will travel to the upper grove worship space for carols, scripture from our children and a live nativity. Cookies and hot chocolate around the fire will follow in the cabin.

PW SEWING CIRCLE The 55 quilts in the Sanctuary this morning will be donated to children at the YWCA daycare programs. Members of the Circle will be meeting with the children at 10:00 on December 3 to help them pick a quilt and a homemade scarf. If you'd like to join us, email Barb Greenwood at bosakgreenwood@hotmail.com.

IN SYMPATHY The congregation extends its condolences on the death of member Dave Foreman on November 24, 2025, to his family, and his friends. Please hold them in your prayers. Service arrangements are pending. Even as we share our grief, we receive comfort in the sure and certain hope of eternal life through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES 2026 Offering Envelopes are available. They may be picked up after worship or from the church office during the week.

THE NEXT COMMUNITY CLOTHING DRIVE PICK-UP WILL BE DECEMBER 14. All men's, women's, and children's clothes for winter are needed including pants, shirts, jackets, coats, shoes, underwear, socks, and dresses. Additionally, sheets, towels, and washcloths can be used. Please drop off the clothing at Norm Daniels' house (500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111) by 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14th. Questions? Call or text Norm at 717-712-7494.

ANTHEM

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN -ARR. BY TREVOR MANOR

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending, He. Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving bore the savior of our race, and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King; let no tongue be silent, every voice in concert ring; evermore and evermore.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Congregational part

Words by
CHARLES WESLEY

Music by
JOEL RANEY



Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus,
born_ to set thy peo - ple free; from our
sins and fears re - lease us;
let us find our rest in thee.

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Prayer Square

Please keep the following church members and friends in your prayers.

Members

Nancy Bingaman, Jim Brillinger, Brenda Brinkley, Friends and Family of Dave Foreman, Fortino Family, Fran Gilchrist, Shirley Grunden, Himmelright Family, Don Hoopes, Nancy Hutchison, Larry and Annette Kilpatrick, Jim Knight, Penny Knight, Anita Laughery, Nedra Maxwell, Joanne Miller, Donna Powers, Elsie Williams, Dave Wion, Kathie Zimmerman

Friends

Celeste Ehrhardt, Gamber Family, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, Kate, Humphrey, J Jackson, Joey Koch, Beau MacGinnes, Linda Molner, Price Family, Dennis S., Wendy Shoop, Frank Sallusti, Cliff Stern

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer Square
please contact Janice at 717-418-1526 or momjakh@aol.com

November 30 – December 7

Sunday, November 30	9:00 AM	Sunday School	<i>Agape Park</i>
	10:30 AM	Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	<i>Great Room</i>
Monday, December 1	12:00 PM	Mission Ministry	<i>Library</i>
	1:00 PM	Paxtang Civic Club	<i>Room 101</i>
	6:00 PM	Christian Education Ministry	<i>Agape Park</i>
	6:00 PM	Voices of the Valley	<i>Sanctuary</i>
Tuesday, December 2	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	<i>PPNS</i>
	12:00 PM	Unity Circle	<i>Room 201</i>
	6:30 PM	Paxtang Lions	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>
		Santa Shop Santa Shop	<i>Big Brothers Bethesda Mission</i>
Wednesday, December 3	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	<i>PPNS</i>
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	6:30 PM	Property Management Ministry	<i>Room 101</i>
Thursday, December 4	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	<i>PPNS</i>
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	<i>Sanctuary</i>
	7:30 PM	Choir	<i>Choir Room</i>
		Santa Shop	<i>Allison Hill</i>
Friday, December 5	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	<i>PPNS</i>
Saturday, December 6	7:00 PM	Voices of the Valley Concert	<i>Sanctuary</i>
Sunday, December 7	9:00 AM	Sunday School	<i>Agape Park</i>
	10:30 AM	Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	<i>Great Room</i>
	4:00 PM	Christmas Jubilee	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public

9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday through Friday

If you need to visit the office or building at another time, please call the office.

Paxton Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor	x105	Margaret Poteet	pastor@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Faith Formation	x104	Michelle Sheppard	michelle.sheppard@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Music		Susan Beckley	
Organist		Jeanne Bruce	
Director of Youth Music		Andrew Vinton	
Office Administrator	x101	Abby Spencer	office@paxtonchurch.org
Financial Office/Treasurer	x102	John Palmer	treasurer@paxtonchurch.org
Nursery School Director	x103	Nicole Evenhuis	nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

Board of Deacons

Tara Frank '25	Moderator	Merideth Staudenmaier '25	Secretary
Sally Appleby '25		Rich Lengler '26	
Jim Bruce '26		Diana Robertson '25	
Linette Burd '26		Deb Trephan '27	
Judy Frankford '27		Brenda Vinton '27	
Cheryl Holtzman '26		Bev Ziebell '27	

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Leaders	Gary Myers	Jane Sanford
Stephen Ministers	Karen Cirillo	Karen Herrold
	Cheryl Holtzman	Janice Hutchison
	Annette Kilpatrick	Nancy Lengler
	Steve Miller	Kathy Woodbridge

For a confidential referral please contact a Stephen Leader.

Session *Chair

Margaret Poteet	Moderator
Kitti Taylor	Clerk of Session
Karen Herrold '25*	Christian Education
Janice Hutchison '25*	Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler '26*	Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt '27*	Mission
Gary Myers '26*	Nominating
Jay Kealey '26*	Personnel
Nino Giambrone '27*	Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier '25*	Stewardship
Sharon Webb '26*	Technology
Anita Laughery '27*	Worship and Music
Bob Frank '25	

At Paxton Presbyterian Church, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a welcoming and affirming community for all people - no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, mental or physical ability, or religious background.



88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



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

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The Days Are Surely Coming 357

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My right - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then right - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.