

**ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PENNSBURG, PA**

**December 20, 2020**

**Pastor David Penman**

**Office: 215 679-9015 Cell: 757-202-0105**

**E-mail: [stmarks@stmarkspennsburg.com](mailto:stmarks@stmarkspennsburg.com)**

**Web site: [www.stmarkspennsburg.com](http://www.stmarkspennsburg.com)**

**Pastor's E-mail: [dnpennman@gmail.com](mailto:dnpennman@gmail.com)**

**Director of Music: Judith A. Love**

**Soloist**

**Jill Haldeman**

**Layreaders**

**Angela, Nicholas and Sophia Berger**

**Claudia Kulp**

**WELCOME**

**CANDLE READING**

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word-made-flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen**

(the fourth candle is lit)

**NATIVITY SCENE**

This morning, we add to our manger scene – the figures of Mary and Joseph. Despite hardships and sacrifice, they do what is necessary to follow God's plan. May we follow God's path no matter what the cost.

**ADVENT HYMN**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

257 v. 1, 2,6,7

v.1: O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

v.2: O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh; in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

v.6 :O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

v.7: O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one; refresh the hearts that long for you, restore the broken, make us new. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit  
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

**We confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free - free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **\*GREETING**

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.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURES**

### **FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus

says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

## **SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over

the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”<sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.<sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.<sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.”<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Megan Sell

## **SERMON**

Pastor David

## **SPECIAL MUSIC** (organ piece)

*Gabriel’s Message*

Paul Manz

## **\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

Together, with the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 THE PEOPLE**

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faith. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence *especially* **Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Marie, David, Paul, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Merle, Barbara, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny and Harold.** Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of the saints who taught us and inspired all with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.  
**Amen.**

## **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread gave thanks, broke it and 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.

## **\*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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Prepare the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

## **COMMUNION**

Gathered together in your homes or wherever you are, you may now offer communion to each other (or to yourself) by saying: "This is the body of Christ, given for you" when you offer the wafer/bread. Then in a similar manner with the juice/wine say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you." Each of those receiving the bread and the wine may respond with, "**Amen.**"

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.

In this bread and cup you give us life forever.

In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.

**Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

drum accompaniment by Ellen Leh

263

v.1: Savior of the nations, come; virgin’s son, make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth, God has chosen such a birth.

v.2: Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God, was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

v.3: Wondrous birth, O wondrous child, from his throne, a virgin mild! Very God and Mary’s son, eager now his race to run!

v.4: From God’s heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads; out to vanquish death’s command, back to reign at God’s right hand.

v.5: Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

v.6: Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin’s sone, Incarnate Word: To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*\*\*\*\*

We welcome everyone to worship today.

**MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Our annual congregation meeting is normally held on the second Sunday of December. The purpose of the meeting is to approve nominees for Church Council and to approve the budget. Since we cannot meet in person this year, we are asking you to consider the nominees and budget included in an email sent to you earlier this month and issue your vote via e-mail, letter, or phone call. Please advise us of your vote by December 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK:**

**The Adult Bible Study** invites you to join a Zoom meeting at 9AM Sundays. Please contact Deb Long for more information at [debra.reed588@comcast.net](mailto:debra.reed588@comcast.net) A Zoom link will be sent to you.

**Poinsettias** If you have ordered poinsettias, they will be available for you to pick and bring home beginning Monday 12/21 . Thank you for helping to make our altar so beautiful! The list of sponsors will be in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**The Annual Winter Red Cross Blood Drive** sponsored by St. Mark's is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2:00-7:00 PM. The drive will once again be held at the East Greenville Fire Company, 401 Washington Street, East Greenville, to allow for maximum social distancing space. Many thanks to East Greenville Fire Company for generously donating their social hall! Thanks also to those who already signed up for donation appointments. We still have 21 donor slots to fill including 6 reserved for Power Red donors. All Covid safety protocols will be followed. It is never too early to reserve your donation slot! A few minutes of your time can be worth a lifetime to another. Please contact Maribeth Reigner at 215-679-8563 to schedule an appointment or register online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Thank you!

### **Preparing for next week:**

**Mon:** Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-14

**Tues:** Hebrews 8:1-13; 1 Samuel 1:19-28

**Wed:** 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11

**Thur:** Luke 2:1-14[15-20]; Psalm 96; Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14

**Fri:** John 1:1-14; Psalm 98; Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

**Sat:** Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60; Psalm 17:1-9, 15; 2 Chronicles 24:17-22; Matthew 23:34-39

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012910. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Hymns and music licensed by Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI). All rights reserved. Copyright License #1349795. Permission to podcast/stream service and hymns under OneLicense Annual License A-715141. All rights reserved.

