
HEIDELBERG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
251 PERKIOMEN AVENUE, SCHWENKSVILLE, PA 19473
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SERVICE CONDUCTED ON FACEBOOK LIVE & IN-PERSON WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Today's Thought:

"Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down." ~ Pope Francis

Centering Words:

A righteous branch has sprung forth to bring goodness and justice to our world.

** = Stand in Body or Spirit*

GATHERING TOGETHER

Ring the Bell

10:30am

Welcome

Pastor Adrian

Prelude

"Ballad of Jesus Christ"

Clarinetist: Donna Lohr

Call to Worship

Pastor Adrian

L: Advent is ...

P: A pilgrimage of the soul,

L: A child's delight,

P: A journey to our own Bethlehem where something new waits to be born.

L: Advent is ...

P: Responding to a deep yearning,

L: Going on a quest,

P: Following a star to a place of wonder and joy.

L: Advent is ...

P: Bright lights and Christmas trees,

L: Watching and anticipating,

P: Waiting for a baby's cry, the angels' song and the whole world rejoicing.

L: Come, let us begin our Advent journey.

Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Adrian

* Opening Hymn

"We Hail You God's Anointed"

We hail you God's anointed, the long awaited One! Hail in the time appointed, your reign on earth begun! You come to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; and joy and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth. Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

The wise shall bow before you and gold and incense bring; all nations shall adore you, and praise all peoples sing; To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows be said, your realm is still increasing, with you, O Christ, as head.

O'er every foe victorious, you on your throne shall rest; from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blessed. The tide of time shall never your covenant remove; your name shall stand forever, your changeless name of Love.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE WREATH

The Candle of Hope

The Waldron Family

* Candle Response

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

While we are waiting come; while we are waiting come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

* Call to Confession

Pastor Adrian

A new year begins in the church, we seek to leave behind our past unfaithfulness. We remember our doubts and neglect, the empty times when prayer is forgotten and our focus is narrowed to petty concerns. God is waiting to hear from us. Confident in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another ...

* Prayer of Confession – Silent Prayer

God of blessing and love, when the time was right you sent your Son to the world. Teach us the art of patience and give us an understanding of your wisdom. Forgive us for making this holy season of anticipation a whirlwind of lists and activities, a flood of joyless obligations and heartless generosity. Forgive our rush as we forgive those who rush past us. Lead us not into anxiety, but deliver us from pretense. For your kingdom is coming with the power of love and the glory of angelic carols, now and forever, heralded in the birth of the Christ. Holy Child, loving Savior, come. Amen. [Silent Prayer]

* Words of Assurance

The Lord is merciful and forgiving, a great and compassionate savior. God rescues us from darkness and frees us from fear. Hear the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Carol of Praise

"Joy to the World" (Verses: 2,3)

#134

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let earth her songs employ; let fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Children's Chat

"Advent"

Pastor Adrian

Special Music

"Rejoice!"

Vocalist: Rose Waldron

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Lessons (NRSV)

Liturgist

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Pew Bible pg#645

Psalm 25:1-10

Pew Bible pg#436

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

* Gospel Lesson (NRSV)

Pastor Adrian

Luke 21:25-36

Pew Bible pg#856

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Alleluia

"Alleluia! Give the Glory"

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Give the glo - ry
 1 and the hon - or to the Lord!
 2 and the hon - or to the Lord!

Sermon

"The Call of Advent"

Rev. Adrian Tierson

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1,2,4)

#114

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 thee, O Israel!

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!

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

SHARING FAITH & LIFE

Joys, Concerns & Announcements

Pastor Adrian

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Adrian

Lord's Prayer

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 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.

Special Music

"Noel"

Vocalist: Steve Freed

Call to Offering

Pastor Adrian

God's love for us knows no bounds. In grateful response, may our gifts to others abound.

* Doxology (Advent Lyrics)

All praise, eternal Christ, to thee, Whose Advent sets thy people free; Once more upon thy people shine, and fill the world with love divine. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship, and our material resources, wherever they are needed. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD

* Closing Hymn

"O Christ, How Shall I Meet You"

#130

O Christ, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a-right? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty: O love beyond all telling, that let you to embrace in love all love excelling our lost and fallen race.

A heav'nly hope you give me, a treasure safe on high, that will not fail nor leave me as earthly riches fly. My heart shall bloom forever with joyful praises new, and from your name shall never withhold the honor due.

* Benediction

Pastor Adrian

* Final Response

"First Song of Isaiah"

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense and he will be my Savior.

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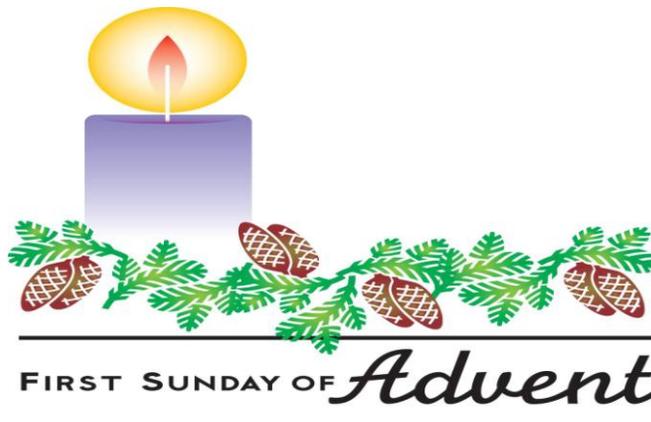
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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 A.M to 12:00 P.M.

All other times by appointment

Church office – 610-287-9736

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
Arrangements	Warren Doerner	Eleanor Risell
Head Usher	Barry Pitkoff	Ron Sivick
Acolyte	Alexis Ramirez	Jacob McDowell
Liturgist	Joe Giunta	Joe Homan
Song Leader	Steve Freed	Anthony Alvarez
Greeters	Carol Slater-Kline & Bob Butz	Bob & Jan Stahley
Technology	Doug MacWade & Brian Pippert	Doug MacWade & Brian Pippert
	Kaelin Godfrey	Kaelin Godfrey
Nursery Care	Stephanie Hapenovich	None - Sunday School Weekend

Welcome to Heidelberg! Whatever your past, whatever your religious background, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome. Join us for a spiritual journey where God is still speaking. Enter as a guest, depart as a friend.

Today - The First Sunday in the season of Advent.

Next Sunday - We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite our virtual worshipping community to have elements of bread and juice prepared so as to join us at the Lord's table.

Christmas Eve Services - We look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ with you! We will offer three services this year: 4:30pm, 7:00pm, and 11:00pm. All the service will be candle light. We will celebrate Holy Communion at 7pm. The 11pm service will be live streamed.

Christmas Gift Card Donations - Do you know a family or individual in our community that could use an extra Christmas blessing this year? Please let Pastor Adrian know. We are collecting gift cards to be distributed among the families or individuals with a need. Cards to Target, Giant, WaWa, Walmart, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, etc. would be some good ideas. If you can make a donation, please have it to the church office by **Sunday, December 12th**. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Sunday School - Youth Sunday School Classes will be held every other Sunday following the Children's Chat portion of worship. Classes will be held again next Sunday, December 5th and 19th.

Nursery Care - The Nursery will be staffed on the opposite Sunday's of Sunday School classes. The Nursery is staffed today and will be again Sunday, December 12th and 26th.

Preparing for Advent Options -

1. A 4-week devotional study packet giving you a memory verse, a prayer, a Scripture reading, and a reflection question. See Pastor Adrian for a packet.
2. Family Devotionals AND Individual Devotionals are available at the entrances to the sanctuary. One per family, please.
3. Conference Advent Book Study: The Racial Justice Initiative of the PSEC is offering an Advent book study featuring: "Who Will Be A Witness?" Tuesdays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. E.S.T November 30th – Dec. 21st. The study will center around Dr. Drew Hart's book - a powerful witness and call on the Christian church to discipleship that embodies God's love, justice, and deliverance. Registration is Free. Register at: <https://psecracialjusticebook.eventbrite.com>

The Board of Christian Ed - Is collecting fuzzy non-slip grip socks to make Christmas sock "cupcakes" for the residents at Greenfield Senior Living. We are asking the congregation to purchase the socks; search information is below if you would like to use your Amazon Smile account. For safety purposes, please be sure to purchase "non-slip grip" socks. A donation box will be placed in the narthex. **Search on Amazon** for "Fuzzy socks with non-slip grip for men" and "Fuzzy socks with non-slip grip for women".

Christmas Caroling - On Sunday, December 19th at 12noon following worship, the BOCE is inviting you to join them in visiting the seniors at Greenfield Assisted Living and delivering the Cupcake Socks and caroling to the residents. A pizza lunch will be offered at the church after singing for anyone who would like to stay. Due to continued COVID concerns, Greenfield has given us their protocol we must follow in order to visit:

- Adults must be vaccinated
- Temperatures will be checked at the door
- Masks are required regardless of vaccination status
- We need to keep unvaccinated children to limited

Understanding the protocols, we invite you to save the date and signup to join us for this festive occasion. **A signup sheet is in the Narthex.** See Pamela Waldron for more information.

Poinsettias and Memorial Fund - Poinsettias used to beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve are available for purchase this year for \$7.00 each. Feel free to take your plants home after the Christmas Eve services. Order blanks for both poinsettias and the Memorial Fund are available on the windowsills of the sanctuary or you may contact Rhea Levy-Fry at 610-287-7889. The last day to order a poinsettia is **Sunday, December 19th**.

Christmas Toy Drive for Daily Bread Community Food Pantry - You can place your donations in the blue bin in our Narthex no later than **December 19th**. The response from Heidelberg last year, even with the pandemic, was fabulous! Thank you and we hope to make it fabulous again this year!

Online Donations - If you would like to make a one-time or recurring donation to the ministry of Heidelberg UCC, we have a new and simple way to do that by credit/debit card or by connecting your paypal account right through Facebook. Just click the "Donate" button at the top right of our Facebook Page and follow the very easy steps. Thank you for your support and generosity.

AmazonSmile - AmazonSmile is very simple to use—all you need is an Amazon account. On your first visit to the site, you will be asked to log in to your Amazon account with an existing username and password (you do not need a separate account for AmazonSmile). You will then be prompted to choose a charity to support. During future visits to the site, AmazonSmile will remember your charity and apply eligible purchases towards your total contribution—it is that easy. You can find an easy link on our website (www.hucc.net) homepage (lower right column). Click, shop and support!

Ladies Lunch - Lunches are held on the 2nd Monday's of the month. The next lunch will be Monday, December 13th at 12noon. See Diane McFarland to make your reservation.

Shop-With-Scrip - You can purchase gift cards from your favorite brands to use for your daily purchases and for Christmas presents! See Eleanor Risell for more information or to make your purchases.

Hot Chocolate - The Daily Bread Community Food Pantry would appreciate donations of hot chocolate to distribute to their client families with children. Please put your contributions in the box in the Sunday school entrance.

Volunteers Needed - The Daily Bread Community Food Pantry is looking for people to help stock shelves any day Monday-Saturday, 9am-noon. Please contact Anne Ryan 215-256-4448 if you are interested.

Prayer Requests - please e-mail the church office with any prayer concerns and we will keep our prayer list updated.