



Church of the Apostles UCC

4th Sunday of Advent– Dec 22, 2024

10 AM In-Person & Online Worship

Welcome!

“No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!” More than words, we are all here because of God’s love, grace, and mercy. This is a community united by the honesty of our shared brokenness and the healing we receive through Christ.

Get Connected: Use a Welcome Card to share your presence and prayer requests with us. To get more connected, sign up online for the “Weekly Announcements” and “Crown Newsletter,” like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram, give us a call, or send an email. It is our joy to know you!

Children: There are toys and activity bags for children in the Children’s Corner for use as children are always welcome to remain in worship. Our Faith Formation class for children ages 3–2nd grade will be meeting in Rm 306 following the Children’s Time in worship. Our “Rooted” class for youth in grades 3rd-9th meet in Rm 310 beginning at 9:55 am.

Connection Cards: We ask that all worshippers complete a “Connection Card” located in the pew rack near you. This allows us to know who was with us. They can also be used to give prayer requests or suggestions. These may be placed in the offering plates which will be passed following the sermon.

First-Time Guests: After worship, please visit our Welcome Center, where a congregation member will be available to answer your questions and provide a packet of information about our church. This is also where you’ll receive a connection card to fill out, helping us stay connected with you!

Offerings: Any physical offerings you have brought can be placed in the offering plates which we will pass following the sermon. Electronic gifts may be given through the QR code on the bulletin or the one on a slip in the pew rack. Or Text ‘COA’ to 73256 with the amount you want to give.

Restrooms: Are available in the hallway to your left when you exit the sanctuary.

Electronic Devices: Remember to silence your device during worship. Wi-Fi is provided through "VisitorWifi." No password is needed.

You are a blessing: Let us know how we might better partner with you in this journey of faith and life. If you have thoughts, recommendations, or simply would like to join in prayer, we would love to hear from you!

Selected Scripture Readings

Matthew 1:18-25 & Romans 13:8-10

Worship Leaders

Minister – All Members
Preacher – Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
Reader – George Alspach
Ushers – Randy and Luane Morrison,
Karen and John Wallach,
and George Alspach
Greeter – Randy & Luane Morrison
Special Music – Isaac Rhoads and the
Children's Choir

Director of Music – Lars Potteiger
Instrumentalist – Nathan Sheffer
Drums – Nathan Moore
Bass – Charli Schultz
Vocals – Johanna & Jan Baker, and the
Apostles Adult Choir
Streaming – Jaben Jury
Sound – Chris Braun
Projection – Bill Stock

Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship

Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster PA 17603
717-392-5718 + office@apostlesucc.org + www.apostlesucc.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Kathryn Kuhn – kathrynk@apostlesucc.org x8201

Order of Worship

*When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord
commanded him; he took her as his wife
– Matthew 1:24*

We Gather in Your Presence

Welcome

Gathering Music: "Love Comes to Us at Christmas" – Amanda Udis-Kessler

Light for a Time Such as This "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Prayer

All: God of joyous expectation, come to us this day. May the miracles in our lives fill us with wonder. Receive us into the arms of your mercy, that we may feel you near us and rest secure in your many blessings. Amen

(Please rise in body and/or spirit.)

Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Chalice #148)

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful, and tri - um - phant,
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our sal - va - tion,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Descant

3. O come, O come,

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy One, you bring us life in ways we do not even realize,

All: in forms we do not always understand.

Leader: We do not always pay attention to your presence.

All: We put you to the test, not with our doubts, but with our distraction.

(Time of silent reflection)

Leader: Amen

We Listen for Your Word

Special Music: "Joy to the World" - Lowell Mason
Isaac Rhoads - piano

"Away in a Manger" - James R. Murray
The Children's Choir

Children's Time
"What is Love?" video

Carol: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (St. 1 & 4) (Chalice #119
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 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!

Scripture Reading: Romans 13:8-10 (Pew Bible, NT p.162)
Matthew 1: 18-25 (Pew Bible, NT p.1)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Contemporary Words: "Humility Before God"

We Respond to Your Word

Invitation to the Offering

Special Music: *"Emmanuel – An Advent Hymn"* – McGee, Nockles

Prayers of the Community & Lord's Prayer

(Believing in God's truth, we open ourselves as God's servants through prayer.)

All: 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 as we forgive others. And let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Returning to the World

(Please rise in body or in spirit.)

Carol: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (Chalice #150)

Descant

3. All hail the Sun of

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

Righ - teous - ness! He is risen with heal - ing

new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners
 last - ing Lord! Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the
 Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing

in his wings. His glo - ry by,

rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
 Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see;
 in his wings, mild he lays his glo - ry by,

no more may die;

join the tri-umph of the skies; with the an-gel - ic
 hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty, pleased in flesh with
 born that we no more may die, born to raise us

born to raise us from the earth to sec - ond birth.

host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing to the new-born King.

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

Benediction

All: God's love guides us to welcome and include people as they are, serve compassionately, and champion environmental care and social justice.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Sending Music: "Away in a Manger" – Clark and Clark

Go into all the world to love and serve those who are afraid or powerless following Jesus' example!

[Liturgy comes from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022. Advent 4*

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Give Online Through Realm



Or Text 'COA' to 73256 with the amount you want to give

Prayers of Joy and Concern

(as of printing on 12/18/2024)

Joys: Birth of a daughter to Adam & Sara Zipko; and the birth of a son to Leah, Stephen & Grace Carr.

Concerns: Joyce Smedley; Family & Friends of Dorothy Freeman; Family & Friends of the Witmer's Friend, Nancy Locke; Kathleen Stoyer's Friend, JoAnn; Those Struggling during the Holidays; Family & Friends of Russ Weiser; Judy Ruppert; Ann Thea Beck; Marty Holmes' Daughter; Duke Gabriel; Earl Cardellino; and Weston Koehler.

To add your prayers of joy and concern, email office@apostlesucc.org
or call 717-392-5718 ext 8200

APOSTLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES – This December, we invite you to support two impactful ministries through our special non-pledge offerings. Bethany Children's Home and Hoffman Homes for Youth provide critical care and recovery support for children facing trauma and mental health challenges, while the UCC Christmas Fund offers financial assistance to clergy and church employees in need. Your generous contributions can make a meaningful difference. For more details or to donate, please visit apostlesucc.org/donate/special-non-pledge-offerings.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHTING – We are seeking volunteers to assist with lighting candles during the singing of "Silent Night" at our 3 PM and 7 PM Christmas Eve services. If you'd like to help create this special moment, please contact [Rev. Kuhn](#) to participate.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE WITH US – Join us on December 24th for our 3 PM and 7 PM Christmas Eve Services. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to share in the joy and warmth of this special season. Flyers are available in the Narthex – take one to spread the word!

MONEY COUNTERS NEEDED – Are you available on Monday mornings to help count collections? This vital task is simple and greatly needed. If you're available, please contact April in the Finance Office at finance@apostlesucc.org.

2025 GIVING ENVELOPES – Please pick up your 2025 giving envelopes by Sunday, January 5th. Interested in switching to online giving? Contact April in the Finance Office at finance@apostlesucc.org.