



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Shepherd's Look
at
PSALM 23

Part 4

You anoint my head with oil /
Surely Goodness and Mercy will follow me /
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever



First Sunday in Advent | November 28, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Stand as you are able.)

GATHERING MUSIC

Greeting Announcements Birthdays Anniversaries

PRELUDE: “Savior of the Nations, Come”, J. S. Bach

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ADVENT LIGHTING – “HOPE” *(Fleeman Family)*

O Come, Advent: *Verse 1 (Tune of: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #123)*

O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 21:25-36)

When the world seems scary
When we try to escape and hide
The Holy invites us to confront fear
That we may find Hope
(Light candle of Hope)
Where in the world do we find Hope these days?

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Sally Readinger & Granddaughter Arrianna)*

Leader: The days are surely coming, says our God,
when justice and righteousness will appear.

People: God's promises will be made known to us, and we will declare God's goodness and salvation.

Leader: Lift up your souls in trust and praise;
open your hearts and minds to God's teaching.

People: God's ways will be demonstrated to us, and we will seek to walk in them all our days.

Leader: Render thanksgiving to God for all life's benefits.
Watch and pray, in holiness and abiding faith.

People: God's mercy and steadfast love will surround us, and we will abound in love for one another.

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #136 *"The First Noel"*

***THE MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** *(Unison)*

In obedience and trust, we approach you, God of the covenant. Day by day, your promises are fulfilled among us. Our redemption is drawing near. Help us to prepare ourselves and our communities for Christ's coming. Equip us now to worship you with all the saints, past and present, nearby and far away. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI #623

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.

HEBREW LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-11 *(Sally Readinger and Granddaughter Arrianna)*

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH MUSIC

ANTHEM: "Carol for Advent", Don Besig

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Pastoral Prayer The Lord's Prayer

HYMN OF PREPARATION: #144 *"How Great our Joy"*

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: ACTS 20:25-35 (*Sally Readinger and Granddaughter Arrianna*)

"And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. Therefore, I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you

overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

"A SHEPHERD'S LOOK AT PSALM 23 - PART 4"

You anoint my head with oil / Surely Goodness and Mercy will follow me /
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY: "Recitative on Veni Emmanuel",
Douglass E. Wagner

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*Doxology #625 unison prayer of dedication

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.

(**alternate: Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Caring for Us

Caring for Others

Praising God

A TIME OF GOING OUT

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(We offer one another the peace of Christ for the week ahead.)

*HYMN SENDING FORTH #135 *“While Shepherds Watched
Their Flocks”*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring”, arr. Jean Charlas

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**Everyone is Welcome! Feel at home,
for Christ Jesus is our host. If you are
visiting for the first time, we are delighted
to have you here!**

The Psalmist sings: *“Worship the Lord
with gladness; come into God's presence
with singing... thanksgiving... and praise.”*
We pray peace and joy to you, dear friend.

WORSHIP TEAM

Senior Pastor

Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor

Zoom Director

Mary K. Kirsch

Worship Producer

Brian Schieferstein

Handbell Choir Director

Shelley Harmych

Organist/Choir Director

Daniel Jacky

Scripture Reader

Karen Geduldig

Ushers

Judy McCurdy, Earl Wiegand



ALTAR GUILD NEEDS HELP!

The Altar Guild urgently needs help for their team. The duties will include Preparation of Sanctuary for church service, Baptisms and Weddings, and Restocking Supplies. Members pair up with the Veteran Altar Guild. Your service would probably be 3 alternating months. If you think this is something you would like to be part of, please contact **Lynn Hollstein at 440-988-8066**. *Thank you in advance for helping our team!*

Congregational Meeting December 5, 2021

Please mark your calendar for our Congregational Meeting that will take place immediately after worship on Dec. 5 to present the budget and vote on nominations. You should have received an email or mail (snail mail) of the minutes from the Congregational Meeting on February 28, 2021.

Update on Stewardship Cards and Participation

The yellow Participation cards and the orange Stewardship Pledge cards are now placed by the bulletins and also in the pews. Please take a moment to fill out and drop into the offering place. *Participation cards should be filled out weekly.* Thank you!

Update: Total shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child is 45! *Thank you everyone!*

Circle Six Announcements!

Circle Six is pleased to announce the return of “**The Gift of Music**” featuring violinist **Mary Beth Ions** on Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. Tickets are free and can be picked up in the church office or from any Circle Six member. Donations will be accepted and refreshments will be available in Fellowship Hall afterwards.



Circle Six’s **December meeting has been changed** to December 8 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own boxed dinner and beverage.



Annual Cookie Sale

Circle Six will be holding it’s **Annual Cookie Sale** on Sunday, **December 12** in Fellowship Hall - \$6.00/lb. We are asking all members of Circle Six to bake a minimum of 3 dozen cookies and have them delivered to the church by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 11. We would also like to invite any member of St. Peter’s to volunteer to bake as well – just contact Sally Readinger @ 440-222-3414 if you are able to help.

Update from Sunday School

Don’t forget this week’s **noisy collection**, which will help to purchase Christmas dinners for needy Amherst families.

We also need donations for the Christmas dinners. Baskets will be in front of the lectern and pulpit. Items such as scalloped potatoes, canned vegetables, canned gravy, and anything nonperishable that would work well for Christmas dinner.

Thank you! Jessie Kubuske, Director of Christian Education



FOOD PANTRY

In December, we will be collecting items that can be used to give others less fortunate, a Christmas dinner. Below are some ideas:

Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken)	Jiffy Cornmeal Mix
Canned Soup (Pop top lids)	Cranberry Sauce
Instant Mashed Potatoes	Stuffing Mix Gravy
Mac & Cheese	Sweet Potatoes-Yams (Canned)

A big thank you to Pam Miskov for taking the time to ensure all items are transported to Good Shepherd Food Bank. Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church. Thank you again for helping others!

Coffee  *Chats*
with PASTOR CHRIS

Meet the Pastor at Arabica's
254 Park Ave., Amherst
Every Wednesday from 9-11:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome!

"In all this I have given you an example that by such work
we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus,
for he himself said,

It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Wednesday Worship Service: Breeze Chapel

Wednesdays from 7-7:30 p.m. in person in St. Peter's Chapel. If you can't make our Sunday worship *or* if you need an inspiring pick-me-up, come for a 30-minute intimate service. Please enter by the door to the Chapel that faces the parking lot. *All are welcome!*

Advent Traditions

One of the fondest Advent traditions for congregations and families is the lighting of Advent candles which reaches back to pre-Christian northern Europeans. During the darkest days of winter, they lit as many as twenty-four candles on an evergreen-covered wheel or wreath. By lighting a candle a day, they marked time, anticipating the return of the sun's light and warmth.

Today, the Advent Wreath is usually an evergreen wreath placed on a table or suspended from a ceiling or an arch. In the wreath are four candles (usually blue or purple, occasionally one is pink); each candle represents one week during Advent. A white candle is often placed or suspended in the center of the wreath as the Christ Candle.

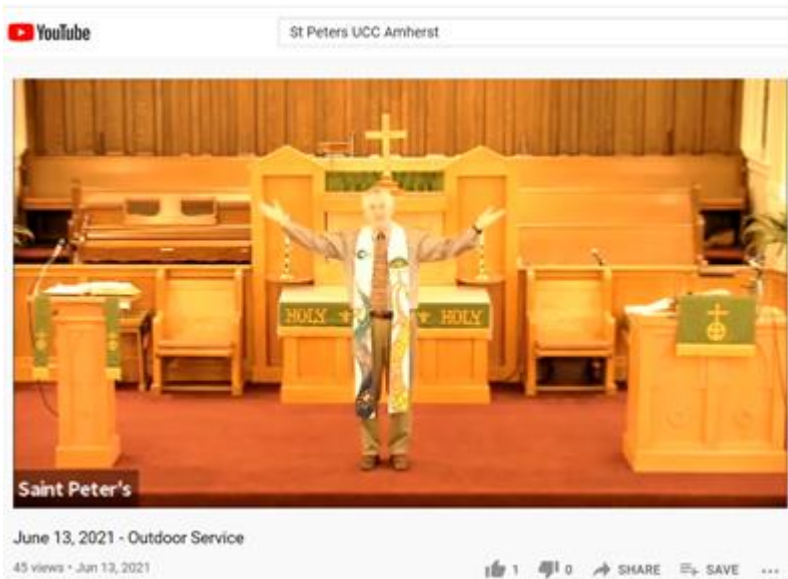
Friends of St. Peters,

You will notice some changes in the sanctuary this week—the blue tape and pew ropes are gone and hymnals and Bibles are back! As a precaution, masks are still encouraged, especially when you are in close proximity to another person. Hand sanitizer can be found in the pews. We want to continue to protect the vulnerable as we *care for us and care for others*.


As we begin to return to a more “normal” service, beginning in November we will no longer be emailing pdfs of the Sunday hymns with the bulletin. If you would like to continue to sing along on Zoom you can request a church hymnal to be delivered to you, or you can pick one up in the church office! However, you chose to obtain a copy, please take this opportunity to connect with and get to know Pastor Chris!

Looking forward to seeing you in person or Live on Zoom!

Mary-K Kirsch
Council President



St. Peter's is on YouTube!

Please be sure to visit our YouTube channel ~ **St Peters UCC Amherst** ~ and be sure to click the SUBSCRIBE button. Then share our channel with your friends! The more subscribers we have, the greater our visibility on YouTube and the more we share the good news! 

Sunday Morning Zoom Worship

For our Zoom worship you will join one another through a free video and audio conference application. Download the Zoom app to your smartphone, computer, or tablet and use the meeting login below:

Join from Zoom app:

Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 | Passcode: 379205

Join Zoom Meeting from computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/5244113917?pwd=aEJEcGhWUUh2dTV4eGJBSDZlUWgwzd09>

OR Call in with phone: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 | Passcode: 379205



This Week's Events

- Mon., Nov. 29 Spiritual Life 1-4:00 PM
- Tue., Nov. 30 Bible Study 7:00 PM Zoom
- Wed., Dec. 1 Coffee Chats with Pastor Chris 9-11:00 AM
Arabica Coffee in Amherst
Breeze Chapel 7:00 PM
- Thurs., Dec. 2 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
Choir 6:30 PM & Handbell Choir 7:30 PM
- Sun., Dec. 5 Sunday Service 10:00 AM, Congregational Mtg.

How To Reach Us

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8:30-12:30 PM and 1-2:30 PM
Afternoons available by appointment with Pastor Chris

Address: 582 Church St. Amherst OH 44001

Website: www.stpetersamherst.org

Phone: 440-988-4965

Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Pastor
pastor@stpetersamherst.org 920-650-0761

Mary-K Kirsch, Church Council President
president@stpetersamherst.org 216-559-6160

Kaye Oswald, Church Office, Administrative Secretary
admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org 440-988-4965

Please visit our website, **www.stpetersamherst.org**
to make your donation electronically via Breeze or Paypal. If you
would like more detailed information, contact the church office.



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