



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*Listen! Listen for a messenger from God.
The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.*

Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**(Stand as you are able.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Greeting Announcements Birthdays Anniversaries

PRELUDE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus", Gilbert M. Martin

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ADVENT LIGHTING – "PEACE" *(Stacy & Liam Gleason)*

O Come, Advent: *Verse 1 & 2 (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

O come and bring your peace upon the earth
That even now still longs for its rebirth
We seek to live and move in your ways
Guide us to peace and justice all our days
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 1:68-79)

When conflict seems never-ending, relationships rocky,
When we want to deny and pretend,
The Holy invites us to make space for truth-telling
That we may find Peace
(Light candle of Peace)
Where in the world do we find Peace these days?

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Stacy Gleason)*

Leader: Listen! Listen for a messenger from God.
The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.

**People: We are here to listen for a word from God.
We have gathered to prepare for Christ's
advent.**

Leader: Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter
and tears. There is a place for you in the
company of seekers.

**People: We thank God for our acceptance in the
church. We rejoice to offer the love of
Christ to others.**

Leader: We are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Claim anew today this opportunity and
responsibility.

**People: We are glad God is doing great things
among us. We want to rejoin ourselves to
God's work in the world.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #124 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

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

How good it is to gather where garments of sorrow and
affliction are removed. Here, we are wrapped in the beauty
of God's glory and welcomed to life at its fullest. Surely
you restore us to our best, mighty God, and equip us for
productive living. Make a difference within and among us
today so we can work for a better tomorrow. 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: Malachi 3:1-4 (*Stacy Gleason*)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH MUSIC

Handbell Choir: “What Child is This?”, Greensleeves

16th Century English Melody. Arranged by Derek K. Hakes (ASLAP). Copyright © 2008 Alfred Publishing. Used by/with permission CCLI No. 20182679 streaming. Used by/with permission One License # A-724594.

Pastoral Prayer The Lord’s Prayer

HYMN OF PREPARATION: #128 *“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: LUKE 3:1-6 (*Stacy Gleason*)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every

mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

SCRIPTURE RELECTION: “PREPARE”

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY: “Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ”, J. S. Bach

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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

A TIME TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE HOLY MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Pastor Chris)*

A TIME OF GOING OUT

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

*HYMN SENDING FORTH #140 *“A Communion Hymn
for Christmas”*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Voluntary in F", John Bennett

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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
Zoom Director
Worship Producer
Handbell Choir Director
Organist/Choir Director
Scripture Reader
Ushers

Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor
Mary K. Kirsch
Brian Schieferstein
Shelley Harmych
Daniel Jacky
Stacy Gleason
Gary Thompson, Geoff Gatz,
Linda Gatz

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

There are red envelopes by the bulletins. Please pick one up if you'd like to donate to The Christmas Fund which provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship. Join with others in the United Church of Christ to help those who have who have given so much to our church.



Congregational Meeting Today

Today is our Congregational Meeting immediately after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We are presenting the budget and voting on nominations. We encourage everyone to stay for this important day in our congregation. Thank you!

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!*

Altar Flowers Signup

The signup sheet for Altar Flowers will be available in the book on the table at the back of the church (the green binder), ready for signup in 2022. If you need help, there is an information sheet, "Altar Guild Flower Process", that explains the procedure.

Questions? Please call Lynn Hollstein at **440-988-8066**. Please note: Altar Guild has silk flower arrangements available to use in place of fresh flowers. A donation would be appreciated. Thank you!

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

For December, we are still accepting 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)
Canned Soup (Pop top lids)
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Mac & Cheese

Jiffy Cornmeal Mix
Cranberry Sauce
Stuffing Mix | Gravy
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!



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!*

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*.

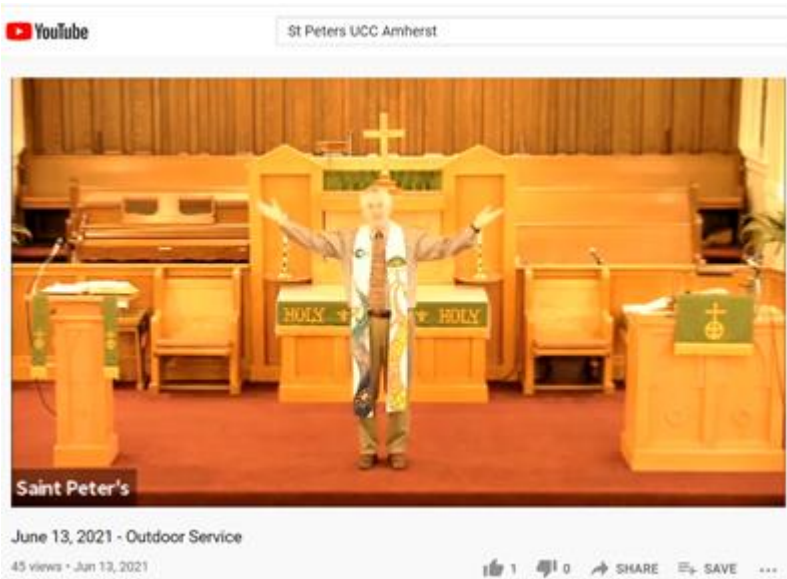
As we begin to return to a more “normal” service, beginning in November we will no longer be emailing pdfs of the Sunday hymns with the bulletin. If you would like to continue to sing along on Zoom you can request a church hymnal to be delivered to you, or you can pick one up in the church office! However, 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

Stewardship and Participation Cards

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 plate. *Participation cards should be filled out weekly*. Thank you!



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., Dec. 6	Spiritual Life 1-4:00 PM
Tue., Dec. 7	Bible Study 7:00 PM Zoom "Gift of Music", Mary Beth Ions, 7PM Sanctuary
Wed., Dec. 8	Coffee Chats with Pastor Chris 9-11:00 AM Arabica Coffee in Amherst Circle Six Meeting 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall Breeze Chapel 7:00 PM
Thurs., Dec. 9	Choir 6:30 PM & Handbell Choir 7:30 PM
Sat., Dec. 11	Bring Cookies to Fellowship Hall
Sun., Dec. 12	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Cookie Sale 11:00 AM Fellowship Hall

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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