

*HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 82

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE “While We are Waiting, Come” 92, verse 1

*POSTLUDE



***Loving God,
Loving Neighbor;
Helping Our Neighbors to Love God***
December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent
Youth Pageant

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Kalyn Stewing

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Let us share this peace with one another.

(please greet those around you with signs of peace)

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of God.

PRELUDE Alli Feszko

WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Taffy, Mark, Joel, and Haylie

Advent is a time for God’s people to reawaken their longings.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Where there is division, we long for unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Where there is hostility, we long for resolution.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Where there is separation, we long for reunion.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

First & Second Candle are Lit

Today we light two candles. The first candle represents the everlasting hope that has touched our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. In a world of division, brokenness and uncertainty, the second candle summons our hearts to the one called Prince of Peace. As the light shines, may we embrace and extend the peace of Christ in all we do and say

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** (unison)

Liturgist Lillian Otto

**God of peace and promise,
You are the giver of life, living in us through the power of your
Holy Spirit.
You are the voice that calls us from our wandering,
setting us on a new path.
You are the living water that purifies us,
baptizing us for service in the world that so badly needs your
love.
You are the Way that we are called to walk and
You are the one who supplies all things for the journey.
Refresh us in this time of worship,
and reignite our desire to serve you each and every day.
Glory, honor and praise be yours now and always,
one God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Merciful God,
baptism promises the washing away of our sin,
and the start of our new life in Christ.
But we confess that we are still in love with our old ways.
We sin against you and one another,
in what we do and in what we fail to do.
We excuse ourselves,
and take comfort in what is familiar
and pleases us rather than what serves you.
Forgive us when we mistake such comfort for the peace you
offer us in Christ Jesus,
and prepare our hearts to embrace new ways of following him.**

Silence is kept...

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, proclaimed this hope: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, giving light to those in darkness, guiding our feet in the way of peace." Receive God's tender mercy today. Trust that God's peace will prevail for all those who seek forgiveness in Jesus' name.

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

***RESPONSE** "Wait for the Lord"

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, through your scriptures,
You have revealed your Word in scripture to your people across the generations.
In the fullness of time, you revealed your Living Word in Jesus Christ.
Now, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
open our minds and hearts to you,
so that we find new ways to follow you faithfully in this generation. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 3:1-6

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL Chris-Myth Busters"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen

OFFERING

We make our offering today as a sign of our commitment to the reign of Christ among us, trusting that our gifts will accomplish more than we might ever imagine, because God will bless them—and us.

*** RESPONSE** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Mighty and merciful God, we bring our gifts to you,
trusting that your blessing will multiply their transformative
power and use in the world. Use them and us to prepare the
way for Christ to enter lives with his compassion and courage,
so that the world will know his peace and trust his name. Amen.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday School

No Sunday School for Children this Sunday

Adult Sunday School–9am to 9:45am

Sunday, December 8–Youth Musical

Monday, December 9–Bell Practice @7pm

Monday, December 9–Cantata Rehearsal @8pm

Tuesday, December 10–Deacons @6:30pm

Tuesday, December 10–Session @7pm

Tuesday, December 10–Youth Group 7-8:30pm note date change

Wednesday, December 11– Story Time 9:30 or 10:30 am

Thursday, December 12–Hopewell Big Band Concert@7pm

Saturday, December 14–Cookie Bazaar 9–11am

Saturday, December 14–Cantata Rehearsal at noon

Sunday, December 15–Cantata

The OUPC Christmas Card mailbox is in the Narthex ready to be filled with your Christmas greetings. If you wish to send cards to fellow church members who attend regularly, bring your cards and put them in the slots that are in alphabetical order. You might want to check your slot to see if you have mail. While you are spreading good cheer you will be saving money on postage stamps that you might consider making an extra donation for upcoming projects like repaving the parking lot.

The Nominating Committee is looking to fill open positions on the Board of Session for the Class of 2027. If you have any interest or have questions, contact Chris Otto at 412-722-5325 or cco107@hotmail.com

Keep Them in Your Prayers: Donna Olexick, Rich Kerlin, Paul (Karen Keller's friend), Lynn Smith, Peter Kerlin, Marcia Davis, Jack Gennaro, Tom Owczarzak, Paul Kulha, Jim Williams

In the Military: William Barth

Those who are not able to worship regularly: Sarah Jane Shaffer, Dolores Skinner, Lois Davie, Pat & Tony Wozniak, Ella Mae Speiker, Edna Petrella, Dorothy Elko, Irene Gartley, Libby Urick, Trudy Boggs, Betty Solinski, Ed & Evelyn Lawson

OHIO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1236 LONGVUE AVE.

ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001

Our website is: www.ohiopresbyterian.org

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@ohiounitedpresbyterianchur1974/streams>

- Sunday worship 10:00 am
- Sunday School for our younger members (Grades Pre-K - 6th grade) during worship

Pastor:

Kalyn D. Stevwing

pastorkalyn@gmail.com

724-841-8145

Administrative Assistant:

Nancy Connell

Church office hours Monday through Thursday 9:00-2:00

Church phone #: 724-378-3690 ext. 3

Church email: office@ohioupchurch.com

Choir Director: Amanda Collins

Worship Leader/Pianist: Alli Feszko

Custodian: Monica Ward

Treasurer: Chris Hurni

Youth Coordinator: Peggy Franzese

Organist Emeritus: Shirley Fluharty

OUR SESSION

CLASS OF 2026: Joe Glatz, Jennifer Davis

Rich Palmer (2T), John Martin (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Chris Otto (2T), Casey Honess (2T),

Patti Strominger, Chris Mathias

CLASS OF 2024: Gina Arzberger (2T), Rayna Knox

Paul Magee (2T), Wendi Rybicki

OUR DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026: Dave Kocher, Ivonne Holsinger

Greg Holsinger, Dianne Kanitra (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Dawn Psik, Terri Owczarzak

Denise Matthias, Ken Jones

CLASS OF 2024: Jeff Barth, Bob Hurni

Eleanor Pike, Corinna Petrella

