

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

...One  
who is  
more  
powerful  
than I is  
coming...



L u k e 3 : 1 6

# **CHRIST'S CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE**

## **CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road  
Murrysville, Pennsylvania 15668

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[office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)

Visit our website at

[www.christsmurrysville.org](http://www.christsmurrysville.org)

Pastor Wayne's email:

[revwaynegillespie@gmail.com](mailto:revwaynegillespie@gmail.com)



**We welcome you** to our church's house of worship. If you are new to worship in the Lutheran church, this introduction will guide you through the worship service. The prayers, responses, and service music are all printed in this bulletin. You will need to use the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnals for the hymns.

**Communion** - All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. Children can come forward for a blessing if they have not previously received Holy Communion. At this time, we are offering Holy Communion in "one kind," which means that we are only offering the host (bread). We hope to be able to begin offering wine during Holy Communion in the near future. We, also, offer gluten-free wafers to those who are gluten-intolerant. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please let Pastor Wayne know when you come forward for Holy Communion.

**Children are always welcome at worship.** If your child needs to move around, please feel free to walk him/her in the rear area of the sanctuary. The rest rooms (with diaper decks) are located in the hallway to the right of the entryway. At the back of the sanctuary, you'll find a basket with cloth bags containing activities for children age 3 and older. Feel free to allow your child to borrow a bag for quiet entertainment during services. With the exception of any artwork your child creates (feel free to tear out), we ask that you return the contents to the bag, and the bag to the basket at the back of the church, after our service.

**Please take a moment to silence your cell phone. Thank you.**

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*(Please take a moment to silence your electronic devices. ~ Thank you.)*

**PRELUDE**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Paul Manz

“Trio on People, Look East”

Wayne Wold

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF CONCERNS**

**ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
    who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,  
    who fills the hungry with good things

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before  
you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your Creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal  
promise, and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**C: Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN**

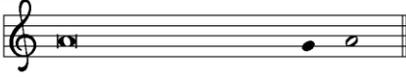
“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW #242 (vs.1,3,4)

**GREETING**

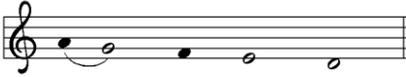
P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



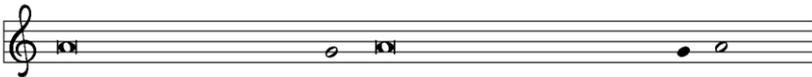
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; though Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 12:2-6**

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Prayer of Blessing:

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's coming. As we light three candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose Day draws near. Amen

## SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

**C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Pastor Wayne Gillespie*

*(please be seated)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"

ELW #519 (ALL)

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day, he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

P. Lord in your mercy, (*after each petition*)

**C. hear our prayer.**

## TODAY, WE ARE INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Kathy Babinsack, Teddy Baker, Joe and Doris Cashell, Russell Corbin, Doug Custer, Sally Dutzman, Courtney Erkus, Gary Keibler, Pat Kvale, Kurt Landsberg, Jr., Gary and Cindy Lemon, Bob McElroy, Derwood Montgomery, Rick Nelson, Michael O'Donnell, Mandy Pfeiffer, Nancy Potochnik, Stephanie Sellers, Beth Smith, Marianne Trainor, Sue Werner, Linda and Sean Vandy, Bob and Donna Yoder.



P. Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C. Amen.**

## **OFFERING for God's work through the church** (*please be seated*)

*This is a time in our service that we use to remember that all that we are, all that we have and all that we do is an offering to God. If you would like to support our ministry through automatic, electronic giving, you can download the Tithely app and create an account by scanning this QR Code.*



*Type: Christ's Lutheran Church Murrysville PA in the "Find a Church" line.*

*You can, also, send your offering to support our ministry by mailing it to: Christ's Lutheran Church 5330 Old Logan Ferry Road Murrysville, PA*

*The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

**OFFERTORY**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Charles Callahan

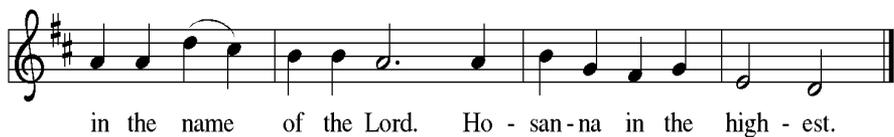
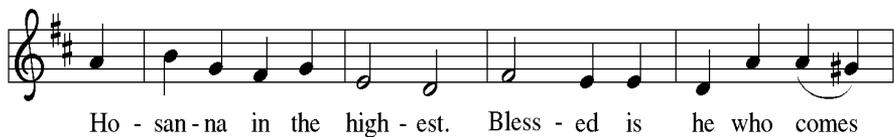
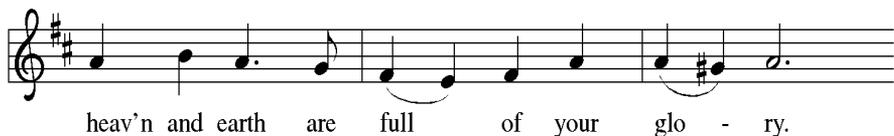
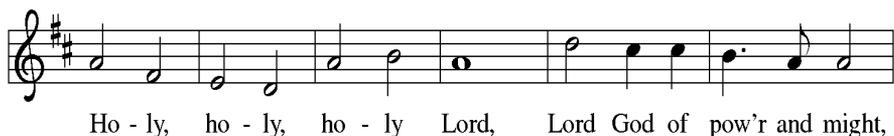
**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our pathway, and our peace. Amen.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . (*concluding*)  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S 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 our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **THE FRACTURE** (praying together)

**C: Increase my faith, Lord Jesus, in your real presence here, and help me to know that You are near. Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*(When communion is finished, please stand)*

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C. Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A. Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

P: May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**C: Amen**

## **“Aaron’s Blessing”**

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

**May the Lord bless and keep you forever.**

**May the Lord always be by your side.**

**May the Lord make His face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you ev’ry day.**

**May the Lord give you peace on your journey.**

**May God’s love and peace fill your heart.**

**May the Lord bless and keep you forever.**

**May the Lord always be by your side.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

“People, Look East”

ELW #248 (Verses 1,2,4)

## **THE DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. Christ is near you.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Toccata in G

Theodore Dubois

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Pastor

Pastor Emeritus

Organist

Parish Administrator

Wayne G. Gillespie

Steven J. Myers

Kevin Clemens

Breana Howard

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Christmas Eve Worship will be on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm - both in person and online. There will be NO service on Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday worship services will be held both in-person and online on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am.
2. We are currently taking orders for poinsettias for use during our Christmas Eve Service. As we are sure you know, supply chain issues are a continuing challenge in our country. We have ordered 20 poinsettias because we were surprised by the florist's early order deadline of December 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to sponsor one of these poinsettias, please contact the church office. All poinsettias will be red and cost \$8.75 per plant. If we receive more than 20 requests we can try to order more.
3. You may notice there is something different in our sanctuary! We have hung two Advent/Christmas banners to add to the beauty of our worship space. The banners are a visual reminder that, in this season of the church year, we HOPE for the Savior to come to us and bring PEACE to our troubled world. "Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people." ELW#247
4. Offering envelopes have arrived and are waiting to be picked up in the entryway! If you are unable to locate your envelopes, please sign your name on the notebook provided on the table. If you need envelopes for you or your children, please also indicate on the notebook provided.
5. A big "Thank You" is extended to our Tech Team for broadcasting our Sunday morning service this weekend. A huge shoutout to our weekly readers, reconcilers, and helpers that make sure everything is in place before and after our services. This week we would like to give thanks to: Linda Gould, Susie Lasher, Cindy Lott, and Pam Zimmerman.

6. We are teaming up with our mission partner, the Plum Food Pantry, for their toy drive. Due to the pandemic, they are asking for gift cards instead of actual toys! If you wish to participate, we are asking for monetary donations so we may purchase the gift cards for the children on our list. Please mark on your envelope "Toy Drive" if you include it with your weekly offering. Any funds received in excess of the gift card purchases, we will donate to the food pantry to be used to make sure every child receives equal value gifts! We know that this time of year we all get inundated with requests for donations. We would like to thank you in advance for your generous support of our Outreach projects! If you have any questions please contact Judy Bernardini at 412-795-6769.
7. Weekly **Sunday School** classes have resumed at Christ's Lutheran Church at **9:00 am**. Masks are to be worn by teachers, volunteers, and students as we will be inside with the colder weather. We hope to see you there! 😊
8. Online Worship: If you are still having problems connecting to our online worship services, please contact the church office by sending an email to: [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org). We have people who are willing to help you to connect to our live-streamed services if you need help.
9. Telephone Call-in Worship: Are you, or somebody that you know, not able to connect to our live-streamed worship services because they are not connected to the Internet? We are now offering a telephone call-in option, so that people who do not have Internet service can listen to our worship services on their telephone. If you, or someone that you know, would like to listen to our worship services on your/their telephone, please contact Breana, in the church office, between 9:15 AM and 2:15 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday by calling: (412) 795-1212.
10. The repair of our stormwater drainage pipe has been completed. Those who want to help by making a monetary donation, may do so at any time by mail, in person, or through the electronic giving app. Please be sure to let us know that your contribution is for the stormwater drainage project. Stay tuned for more updates.
11. Baseball fans know what a "Can of Corn" means – an easy catch, right? What do you call 520 cans of corn? That's what we call Christ's Lutheran Church's 2021 donation to the Light of Life Thanksgiving Baskets! **THANK YOU** to everyone who made this donation possible!

12. If you have an announcement for the church newsletter, please make sure to get the information to Breana in the office no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Thank you.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**Sunday 12/12/2021 through Sunday 12/19/2021**

**Sunday 12/12**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 am  | Sunday School                             |
| 10:00 am | Sunday Morning Worship                    |
| 11:00 am | Congregation Meeting In-Building & Online |
| 7:30 pm  | Narcotics Anonymous Meeting               |

**Monday 12/13**

|         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 5:00 pm | Kindermusik                       |
| 7:00 pm | Worship & Music Committee Meeting |
| 8:00 pm | Alcoholics Anonymous              |

**Tuesday 12/14**

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Kindermusik                    |
| 9:00 am  | Sewing Group                   |
| 10:00 am | Congregation Life Team Meeting |
| 6:00 pm  | Girls Scouts                   |

**Wednesday 12/15**

|         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 9:00 am | Kindermusik           |
| 9:00 am | Property Team Meeting |
| 6:00 pm | Girls Scouts          |

**Thursday 12/16**

|         |                      |
|---------|----------------------|
| 9:00 am | Kindermusik          |
| 6:30 pm | Council Meeting Zoom |

**Friday 12/17**

**Saturday 12/18**

|         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 6:00 pm | Saturday Evening Worship |
|---------|--------------------------|

**Sunday 12/19**

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Sunday School               |
| 10:00 am | Sunday Morning Worship      |
| 7:30 pm  | Narcotics Anonymous Meeting |