

December 11, 2016

Third Sunday in Advent

10:00 AM

GATHERING THOUGHT: “The priceless gift of Christmas is in the reach of all; the rich, the poor, the young and old, the greatest and the small.” ---Helen Steiner Rice

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

What Child is This?
Piano and organ duet

arr. Leatherman/Wilhelmi
Judy Zahren and Patti Gould

Lighting of the Altar Candles

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

People: **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you so loved the world that you gave your only begotten Son.

Grant to us the precious gift of faith, that we may know that the Son of God is come,
and may have power to overcome the world and gain a blessed immortality;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

see Insert

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Debi Wynn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

James 5:7-10

Pew Bible p. 982

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ave Maria

F. Schubert
Samuel Chin

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Air for Advent

J.S. Bach/arr. Fettke

Chancel Choir

UMH 94

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Almighty God, thank you for the surprising ways that you bring salvation.

With Mary, we express deep gratitude for your help at unexpected turns in our lives.

Give each of us a humble heart to serve you willingly and joyfully.

**Use these offerings to assist people who struggle with doubt or physical needs
through the ministries of our church.**

We pray in your holy name. Amen.

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH 221

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 35:3-10

Pew Bible p. 578

SERMON

Christmas Changes Everything

Rev. Cliff Webner

SENDING FORTH

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

***CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

Christians, Awake!

- Edward Broughton

***GOING FORTH**

**Please rise in posture or spirit*

TFWS: The Faith We Sing

UMH: U.M. Hymnal

Bold print: in unison

W&S: Worship and Song

SHARING, CARING, AND STUDYING OPPORTUNITIES

Our **Advent sermon series** called “**Time’s Up!**” continues.

CHRISTMAS FOR EDDIE GROZIER: Please help us with a few dollars to purchase Christmas gifts for Eddie. If you can assist with this ministry, please mark your envelope “Christmas for Eddie.” Thank you for your kindness.

Join us today for **Caroling** for the homebound! Meet at the church at 1:00.

FOOD COLLECTIONS

During this December missions season, donations are needed for ACTC of Peanut Butter (18 oz.), Jelly, Rice, and cereal. Please place items in collection boxes outside Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support.

A Special thank you to our **ALTAR GUILD AND THEIR HELPERS** for making our sanctuary so beautiful year-round.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, you may telephone the church office on Sunday morning to determine whether church services remain scheduled for the day. The telephone number is 410-825-0900.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER UPPER ROOMS are available in two places in the Church – in the Narthex on the History Cabinets and by the 2nd floor entrance to the Sanctuary. These bi-monthly daily devotional booklets may be obtained for a \$1 donation.

Send a Christmas Blessing: What could be better? Send your church family a group Christmas card and donate the money you would have spent on more cards to Lifewater Canada. Last year the money raised helped provide clean drinking water in towns where people got sick and some died from water related disease. Just sign one card and post it on the big board in the arcade, starting first week in December. Make your donation by using the envelope in your pew marked “Christmas cards.” Checks should be made out to LRUMC, memo “Missons.” Thanks for being a blessing to others.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Today	after worship	Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall
		Spire deadline for January/February issue	
		Cookie & Candy Sale	
		Blood Pressure Screening	
	11:30 a.m.	St. Paul’s Ghana Methodist Church	Sanctuary
Monday – Friday			
	6:30 AM – 6:00 p.m.	The Learning Garden Preschool	Rooms 122, 116
	6:30 AM – 6:30 p.m.	IMPROVE Before- & After-School Care	Rooms 208, 214
Monday	9:15 a.m.	Aerobics	Auditorium
Tuesday	6:15 p.m.	Aerobics	Auditorium
Thursday	9:15 a.m.	Aerobics	Auditorium
	6:15 p.m.	Aerobics	Auditorium
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal	Bell Room
	8:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Friday	10:30 a.m.	Al-Anon	Room 128
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s Choir Rehearsal	Room 210

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 17	6 to 9 p.m.	St. Paul’s Ghana Methodist Church	Fellowship Hall
Dec. 18	after worship	Finance Cmte. Meeting	Parlor
Dec. 23 & 26		Church Office Closed	
Dec. 27 to 29	9 to 12	Church Office Hours	
Dec. 29	9:00 am	Spire Assembly	Fellowship Hall
Dec. 30 & Jan. 2		Church Office Closed	



New Prayer Requests

James Edmonds (by Rebecca Mickey 12/6)
The family of Ralph Bartram (by Bob Bartram 12/4)

Recent Prayer Requests

Michele Nelson and family of Eleanor (Marcia Smith 11/27)
Ray Weiss (Marcia & Gary Smith 11/27)
Georgia Fredette (Cecelia Miller 11/27)
James Wagner (Myra Wagner 11/27)
The family of Cheri Potter (sister-in-law of Judy Zahren 11-22)
Dontae Pendleton (by Jan Hoener 11-20)
Cardiac Staff at St. Joseph's (by Merrill Harrison 11-20)
Alfonso Cox's birthday (11-20)
Jim & Myra Wagner, Michael Francis, Velma Boykins, flood victims,
Renee Newton, Gary & Shirley Messman (by Sheila Wyche 11-20)

Prayer requests will be held for one month, unless notified otherwise.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS ALIVE AT LOCH RAVEN

Christmas Cookie Sunday

December 11, 2016 after the church service

Buy cookies and candy



Make a holiday craft



Enjoy a cup of cider



Fill up your holiday cookie and candy jars without the mess of baking. Loch Raven's Fundraising Committee elves have been busy baking a variety of delicious cookies and candy. Purchase your favorites for your holiday enjoyment or as a gift for your Christmas shopping list for only \$8 a pound.

Manger Display and Tree Decorating Month

December is the month nativity displays are set up in the sanctuary and trees are decorated in Fellowship Hall and the arcade. To add your manger scene to this display, and/or to assist with tree decorating, contact Debi Wynn, Patti Ferguson, or Edward Smith.