

# MOUNTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



*Fostering growth in faith,  
growth in community, and growth in service.*

December 13, 2020

10:15 a.m.

## 3rd Sunday of Advent



Third  
Sunday of Advent

**Mountville Church of the Brethren**

December 13, 2020

Worship 10:15 a.m.

60 Clay St., Mountville, PA 17554

717-285-5122

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### GATHERING

*In response to God's call to us we gather for worship feeling accepted and loved. We invoke God's presence, knowing that God is already here.*

### GATHERING MUSIC

#### CHIMES

#### WELCOME

*We welcome you this third Sunday of Advent. As we come to worship this day, come waiting with eager expectation for God to move in our midst. May we be receptive to God's leading in our worship and in our daily living.*

#### PRELUDE

*He Comes in Peace*

Smith

#### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>^</sup>

Reader One: In the midst of lonely exile in our yearnings for healing and peace;

**Reader Two: Come, O come Immanuel.**

Reader One: In our struggle for justice and in our impatience with suffering;

**Reader Two: Come, O come Immanuel.**

Reader One: In our search for righteousness and in our hope for a new heaven and a new earth;

**Reader Two: Come, O come Immanuel.**

**Come and fulfill the promise.**

**Settle among us that our hearts might rejoice and our songs ring out with thanksgiving.**

#### HYMN

*Oh Come, O come, Immanuel*

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## INVOCATION^^

*Gentle God, you know that for us, this is a season of hopes and fears. We are caught up in our excitement and plans. We worry whether everything will get done, and whether our relationships will blossom, bend, or break in the stress of the season. Slow us down, God, and help us to place our hope in you. Be our calm center, that we may be channels of peace to the people around us; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE – LOVE^^^

*Today, we light the third Advent candle. We light this candle as a sign of joy and love. Our joy is founded in the good news that God's love is transforming. Where we see only wilderness and barren land, God sees the potential for growth and blossoming. Our joy is nourished by the good news that God's love is surprising. When the possibilities for new life and faith seem exhausting, God creates surprising new options that bring us energy. Our joy is completed by the good news that God's love surpasses all human understanding.*

## PRAYER

*O God, as we light this candle in preparation for the coming of your love made human, may we experience your transforming, surprising, and energizing love. Your love made visible in the person of Jesus the Christ, Immanuel, God with us. Amen.*

## SHARING

*Born in a Barn*

*Christmas Puppets*

## **COMMUNICATING WITH GOD**

*Through silence, music and the spoken word we engage in a conversation with God.*

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER^^^^

## CHORAL MUSIC

*The Star*

*McCann*

*There's A New Kid in Town*

*Whitley, Putman & Cook*

## **DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD**

*We are called to respond in some concrete way to God's spoken Word. Stewardship includes the giving of not only our money but also ourselves.*

## INVITATION TO GIVE

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*God speaks to us through the Word and the interpretation of the Word.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING      Isaiah 35:5-7

NEW TESTAMENT READING      Matthew 11:2-11 James 5:7-10

## SERMON

*Three Christmas Truths*

Pastor Joe

-Immanuel, God with Us

-Unthinkable Places, Unlikely People

-Story Yet Unfinished!

## **SENDING INTO THE WORLD**

*We have come to worship. Now as newly created people, we go forth to serve. We respond to God.*

## HYMN

*Bless'd be the God of Israel*

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## BENEDICTION

*"O Bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!"*

*While we conclude our formal worship, we continue on with songs that will never cease, compassion that is overflowing, and love that will never end. Amen.*

## POSTLUDE

*How Great is Our Joy*

Koury

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^Carol A. Wise

^^Ruth C.Duck, *Flames of the Spirit*. c 1985. The Pilgrim Press.

^^^Adapted from advent readings prepared by Janet Ober Lambert and Skip Miller.

^^^^Adapted from Living Waters, Worship Resources for Congregational Life, Church of the Brethren.

## 2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

The 2021 contribution envelopes are on the table inside the church parking lot doors. Please pick yours up when you come by. If you have friends, neighbors, or someone in your development that you will be seeing, please pick theirs up too. Any help getting everyone their envelopes is appreciated. Thank you.

## Mission Statement

The Mountville Church of the Brethren invites all children, youth, and adults to connect with Jesus Christ through meaningful worship, engaging spiritual growth opportunities, caring fellowship, practical peace-making, and compassionate service to local and and global neighbors.

# Serving You Today

Interim Pastor	Joe Detrick
Music Director	John Hess
Organist	Gloria Hess
Worship Leader	Walt VanderHeijden
Hands 4 Him Puppets	Amy Sensenig
Special Music	Jim & Wendy Allshouse
Prayer Chain	Mary Finkbiner, 717-581-5767 Linda Bushong, 717-898-3330

The flowers in the worship center are given to the glory and honor of God.

## Prayer Ministry

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* (James 5:16b)

Marian Bollinger, Charlotte Bouscher, Lyn Brubaker, Ed Crafton, Bertha Finkbiner, Mary Finkbiner, Jay & Jane Darlene Fitze, Janelle Fitze, Brett & Sandee Hart, Kirsten Hart, Brenda Hutchins Yoh, Lynn Landis, Ruth Moses, Lew & Fay Powell, Miriam Sampsel, Karen Strine, and Linda Weber.

We wish to thank all of our caring church family for the prayers and other thoughtful ways of reaching out to our family as we are dealing with the aftermath of Brett's and Sandee's tragic accident.

- Ginny Hart and family

## A Bit of Christmas Cheer

The Deacon's Health Ministry Team invites you to help spread the love of Christ this Christmas by giving Christmas cards to members of our congregation who are going through a rough time or who are unable to attend church regularly (see below). Gift bags are inside the parking lot door entrance now through TODAY. If you are able to deliver a bag between December 13 - 25, please indicate that by signing your name on the sheet by the gift bags. This small gesture of a card and a visit means so very much to those who receive them. Thank you for your participation!

## STATISTICS for November 29 - December 6, 2020

Received for General Fund .....	\$ 9,217.00
DESIGNATED FUNDS	
Seasonal Flowers .....	20.00
Food Bank .....	40.00
Misc. (Christmas Gifts for Phil Haven) .....	150.00
Brethren Housing Association .....	100.00
Mountville Elementary Gifts .....	300.00
Room Use Donations .....	291.00

Zoom Adult Sunday School: 18

## THIS WEEK

Today: 12:30 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer

Thurs: 6:00 p.m. – Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall

## Next Sunday, December 20, 2020

### 9:00-9:50 a.m. Christian Education for all ages

- You are invited to the online Seekers Sunday school session beginning at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Bill Kepner will lead the fourth and final lesson in our advent series, *Light of the World*, by Professor and Author Amy-Jill Levine. This study explores the biblical texts surrounding the birth of Jesus and the Gospels' tidings of comfort and joy as sources of rich spiritual contemplation. If you have a computer, simply go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9102712038?pwd=UG5YUGo5TzJQVC83Z3dZYURueDNmdz09>

If you have a smartphone or tablet, you will need to install the Zoom app before joining the session.

### 10:15 a.m. We gather to worship God

December 20 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Pastor Joe will preach "A Mountain Too High To Climb". Read Isaiah 2:1-5, Luke 2:1-7, and Philippians 2:5-8. Worship leader is Larry Booz and various quartets will provide special music.