



Sunday, December 12, 2021 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Miller Commons)

Way of the Week

- 3. LISTEN GENEROUSLY.** Be quick to listen and do so with your undivided attention. Minimize the distractions, and let go of the need to agree or disagree. Suspend your judgment; and be curious to know more rather than jumping to conclusions. Above all, listen to understand.

*“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.”
(James 1:19- 20)*

Ideas for Action: Put aside phones and laptops. Turn off the TV or computer, and face someone you love. Focus on what the other is saying; not on what you want to say. Be careful that you’re not interrupting because you’re not listening to them.

Welcome and Work of God’s People

Rev. Wes Allen

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Nancy Chumney & the Long Family

Song of Praise

Worship Team

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Stuart Spencer

“Whenever the desert fathers and mothers would get absolutely despondent and didn’t know how they were going to put one foot in front of the next, they had this mantra. And the mantra wasn’t ‘God,’ and the word wasn’t ‘Jesus,’ but the word was ‘today.’” (Rev. Gregory Boyle)

If only you would listen to His voice today! (Psalm 95:7)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Spencer

My friends, God is not done with us, not by a long shot. You are more beloved than you can ever know; and God is working in you and in the world beyond our wildest imagining. The beginning of all that is forgiveness. So know that you are indeed forgiven, and be at peace. Amen. **Yes, may it be so. Amen.**

Offertory

Rev. Allen

Please continue your faithful giving as we look to begin our program year. Your tithes and offerings allow us to fully support church operations and our work in the world. Our ministry continues every day. Those attending in person may leave an offering in the box by the doors. Electronic giving is here to stay! Sign up for this simple, secure [automatic withdrawal](#). Online gifts may also be made from the Church Center app on your smart phone.

Praise Song

Worship Team

How Great is Our God

Sharing with Our Children

Paul Savage

Sermon

Rev. Spencer

Waiting for Strength

Scripture Text: [Isaiah 40:1-11 \(NLT\)](#)

Sermon Series: What Are You Waiting For?

Closing Song

Worship Team

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Paul Savage

Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Spencer

11:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Audio:	Taylor Adair
Livestream:	Jonathan Nawrocki
Visuals:	Alice Conley
Worship Team:	Martin Bass-Guitar; Christine Bass-Keys; Rebecca Neindorff-Piano; Don Stevens-Bass; Barry Overton-Drums; Michelle Davis-Vocals; Cheryl Stevens-Vocals
Ushers:	Dave Barr and Jason Rose
Trustee Greeter:	Rich Corbin
Check-in:	
Nursery Coordinator:	Amy Coombe

Today's flowers: See the insert for the poinsettia memorials.

Check-ins: Check-in is self-check in only on your smart phone (no QR code to swipe). Volunteer(s) remain available to assist. Please remember to check in from home when watching the live stream.

New Protocols: Effective December 12, Session approved revised COVID-19 safety protocols effective immediately. **Masks are REQUIRED during Sunday Worship Services.** Congregational singing remains discontinued; singers are masked. We will not serve nor eat food indoors. Session and staff will continue to monitor the pandemic and make changes as warranted.

Adult Education: Join Lorenzo Eagles and Rev. Wes Allen on Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:45, in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom for our fall Adult Education hour. Each week we will dive headfirst into the Word of God as we reflect on and explore that week's sermon text. A study guide is provided electronically on the church website.

- Week 11: December 19 – Joel 3:7-16

Alternative Gift Market Catalog is available ONLINE and at church December 12 and 19. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broader range of 50 gifts is now available to assist our ministries. Visit the tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby to purchase your alternative gifts.

Longest Night Service will be held **Sunday, Dec. 12** at 7:00 p.m. to provide peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression, who may not feel the holiday joy. Seminary intern Paul Savage preaches and communion will also be served.

Advent Devotional: *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas* – Give yourself the gift of God's presence in your life this Advent as we read through a collection of writings from classic and contemporary Christians, including Henri Nouwen, Philip Yancey, Bernard of Clairvaux, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and more.

Candlelighters: If you would like to be the Candlelighter at one of our Christmas Eve Services, please contact Paul Booker at bookfam@aol.com or 856-795-3928.

Fostering a Spirit of Reconciliation: Rev. Wes Allen and Dr. Leslie Spencer will be leading a 6-week study on The Confession of Belhar. The study will meet in person at the Spencers' home on January 6, 2022 from 7:00-8:30 PM. The remaining classes will be offered via Zoom with the final session in person. The Confession of Belhar emerged out of apartheid South Africa in 1986 and was adopted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a Confession of Faith in 2016. **Sign up on our website as the class is limited to 8 people.**