

## **December 20 - UP & COMING NEWS & SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN**

Worship services and past events can be accessed on Facebook and YouTube by selecting the links below:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/FirstChurchHadley>

Additional information can also be found on our website by visiting <https://firstchurchhadley.org>

***Live Zoom Sunday Worship:*** If you would like to join our Live Zoom Worship Service click on the link below at 10am on Sunday morning:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/6222869817?pwd=ejFYVytrTlk3aW1kK01aWE1LeUJpZz09>

### **CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP**

This Sunday, December 22, is Christmas Sunday and poinsettia plants will decorate the sanctuary in memory and in honor of loved ones. Please join us for worship on this Fourth Sunday of Advent.

### **ADULT HOLIDAY GATHERING**

The Adult Holiday Gathering will be held at the church on **Friday, December 27, at 7:00 p.m.** Please bring a dessert item to share and a gift of less than \$15 if you wish to participate in the Yankee Swap. We plan to relax and have fun.

### **ANNUAL CAROL SING AND POTLUCK**

Please plan to join us for a potluck breakfast on **Sunday, December 29, starting at 10:00 a.m.** We will enjoy breakfast followed by a worship service of Christmas Carol singing in the dining room.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLES**

Please join us and invite family and friends to also join our very special Christmas Eve service of carols and candles beginning at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24.** Together we will enjoy the story of Christ's birth, told through scripture readings, carols, and musical selections provided by our vocal choir and handbell choir; and our traditional singing of Silent Night by candlelight.

### **HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

Sunday, December 22

10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Friday, December 27

7:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY GATHERING & YANKEE SWAP

Saturday, December 28

12:00 p.m.

Andersen Family Gathering

Sunday, December 29

10:00 a.m.

ANNUAL CAROL SING & POTLUCK

**PLEASE SUBSCRIBE**

Don't forget to subscribe to our **YouTube** channel to keep up on our latest services and to view past services and events. Please click on the following link to subscribe:

<https://youtube.com/c/FirstChurchHadley>

You may also watch our worship service later in the week on **Hadley Media Public Channel 191**.

Follow us on **Facebook**: <http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley>

*Please share this email! Invite your family and friends to join us. If folks would like to get this weekly announcement, just send a quick note to [rooster@firstchurchhadley.com](mailto:rooster@firstchurchhadley.com).*

*If you would like to post an event in the weekly Friday email blast, please submit it by Wednesday of that week. If you do not want to receive these emails, please let us know and we will remove your name from our list.*

**PASTOR OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Peter Stilla is currently offering office hours on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 413-584-4117

Email: [rooster@firstchurchhadley.com](mailto:rooster@firstchurchhadley.com)

**LIVE ZOOM WORSHIP SUNDAY 10AM**

**Click on the link below at 10 a.m. on Sunday to join our LIVE Zoom Worship Service.**

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/6222869817?pwd=ejFYVytrTlk3aW1kK01aWE1LeUJpZz09>

The Rev. Peter Stilla  
Michael Stancill  
Lisa West

Minister  
Music Director  
Deacon

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY  
December 22, 2024**

**PRELUDE**

“O Come, Little Children”

Johann A. P. Schulz,  
setting by Jason D. Payne

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

setting by Paul Manz

“Still, Still, Still”

setting by Paul Manz

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lisa West

**INTROIT**

“Masters in This Hall”  
Ring of Joy

arr. Jason Krug

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: Today we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, the candle of Love. Love comes to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift.

**People: May the light of love shine brightly in our hearts and in our world.**

Leader: In a world longing for compassion, let us be vessels of God's love.

**People: May we embody Christ's love through our words and actions, bringing hope and healing to all.**

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, may God's perfect love transform our hearts and our lives.

**All: Fill us with your love, God, so we can love others as you love us. Amen.**

Liturgist lights all four candles on the Advent wreath.

**Sung Response: Verse one only**

**#92 (next page)**

## 92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;  
2 With power and glo - ry, come;  
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.  
with power and glo - ry, come.  
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and meditative, with lyrics provided for three different parts and a final line.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

TEXT: Claire Cloninger, 1986  
MUSIC: Dan Cason, 1986  
Text and Music © 1986 World Music, LLC

WAITING (Cason)  
5M

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is our light; the Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

**People: We wait for the Lord, our souls long for his coming. He is our hope and our salvation.**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, reign in our hearts forever!

**People: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, the king of glory is coming!**

Leader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, king of glory and prince of peace. Rule in our lives, now and forever. Amen.**

\* **GATHERING HYMN**      “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

#125

\* **OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Dear God, as we await the miracle of Christ’s arrival, fill us with your Spirit, so we may worship you in gladness and awe. Open our hearts to your presence and our minds to your truth. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. In Christ’s holy name, we pray. Amen.

\* **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.

\* **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE**

Lisa West

1st John 4:7-12 (p. 220)

1st Corinthians 13:1-7, 13 (p. 161)

**TIME FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN**

Shannon Stilla

**ANTHEM**

“Were You There on That Christmas Night?”

Natalie Sleeth

**SERMON**

“The Gift of Love”

Rev. Peter Stilla

\* **HYMN**

“What Child Is This”

#140

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**MORNING OFFERING**

Invitation

Offertory

“Advent Lullaby”

Dale Peterson

\* Doxology

# Doxology

For Advent or Christmas

D Bm A A<sup>7</sup> D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup>  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> Bm A A<sup>7</sup>  
creatures here below. Praise God above, ye

12 D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D  
heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

18 A<sup>7</sup> D Bm F<sup>#</sup>m D G A<sup>7</sup> D A  
No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el,

22 Bm D/A G D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F<sup>#</sup> D/A A<sup>7</sup> D  
born is the King of Israel.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: Trad. English Carol

*THE FIRST NOEL*  
lrr. with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

## \* Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**Accept, O God, these offerings which thy people make unto thee; and grant that the cause to which they are devoted may prosper under thy guidance, to the glory of thy name, and through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

\* CLOSING HYMN “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

#122

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Gloria”

Jason D. Payne

*We invite you to reflect on this worship service and prepare for the week ahead as you enjoy our postlude music.*