

**Morning Worship  
First Sunday of Advent  
November 29, 2020  
10:30 a.m.**

**Chimes**

**Greeting**

Pastor Dennis W. Molnar

**Prelude Music**

Bobby Neumeyer, organ

**Scripture Focus** Mark 13: 24-37

**Call to Worship** *"The Promise of Hope"*

**Skit Guys Video**

**Opening Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Glory to God #88 vs. 1,3,7**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope**

Ron & Chris Brusceci

Greeting

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9: 2, 6,7

Reflection

Lighting of the Candle of Hope

Advent Prayer

**Advent Hymn** *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**GTG #107 vs. 1 & 4**

**Call to Confession**

Leader: We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**Prayer of Confession**

*Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating: from fear that blocks the way of love, from worry that blocks the way of joy, from isolation that blocks the way of relationship, from structural injustices that keep the world bound. Forgive us, O God of hosts, until the stars fall from heaven and we live as people transformed.*

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**Morning Message** *"A Wake Up Call to Hope!"*

**Scripture Reflection** Luke 1:26-45

**Special Music** *Mary Did You Know?*  
Becka Abbott, guitarist/vocalist

Mark Lowery / Buddy Greene

**Stewardship of Life Offerings** *"A New Season"*

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**Sending & Benediction****Postlude**

**We thank guitarist/vocalist Becka Abbott, for her musical gift offering this morning!** Mary, Did You Know? Has been a Christmas Season favorite since its debut in 1991. The lyrics invite the listener to contemplate the relationship between Mary and her soon to be delivered God Son.

**The bouquets of flowers enhancing the chancel today are given to the glory of God as the Season of Advent begins and we await the coming of our Lord!**

**Our sympathies, condolences, and prayers are with The Family of Monica Ide, who passed on to the Kingdom Triumphant of November 21<sup>st</sup>, following her battle with Covid-19. A Funeral Service will be livestreamed via our Facebook Page at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. It will be uploaded to the website after the service is concluded.**

**The Council has also set up a Ide Care Fund to help with funeral and health care costs.** You can make your contribution online or by mailing your contribution to the church, earmarked for the Ide Care Fund.

**Please keep in your Prayers:**

**Linda Oberst**, who will undergo another surgical procedure tomorrow, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Linda Aspinall**, who is now at her sisters as she completes her rehabilitation process. Please send cards to her c/o Kathy Aspinall 105 Woodbridge Drive Carnegie, PA 15106.

**Nancy Reiche**, who broke her foot recently. She is at Kane in Scott Township, as she continues to heal.

**Chris Heidkamp**, diagnosed with Covid-19 and quarantining at home.

**Due to continuing cautions appropriate to the current circumstances, we have suspended in-person worship services.** Please call 412-561-2431 if you have questions or need further clarity.

**The Season of Advent begins today.** Advent Kits will be disbursed to every household beginning today, to help you have a spiritually focused Advent Season. Join us each we as we prepare for the coming of our Lord

**As part of our Advent Season we are going to have some Zoom Coffee Hour Gatherings.** Each week we will invite a group of people to connect via Zoom after the morning worship service. If you would like to be part of these virtual gatherings please send an email to Pastor Dennis [dmolnar@unitypresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:dmolnar@unitypresbyterianchurch.org) or call the church office 412-561-2431. Invitations will then be sent out so you can see and talk with one another. Pastor Dennis will host the first few gatherings beginning today.

**Thank you to all who were involved with Operation Christmas Child mission.** The congregation packed over 400 boxes with a total of 1,984 boxes were dropped off, with a total of 12, 540 gospel opportunity shoeboxes gathered from Allegheny County. Thank you for your generosity and support!

**The Angel Tree Project is well underway, and all the angels have been selected.** Once your gifts are purchased, please drop them off in the church vestibule area anytime between 9 AM and 3 PM on weekdays or before/after worship on Sundays. Please note, there will be tags for you to fill out when you return your gifts so that we may keep them organized. The Allegheny County and Marian Manor gifts will need to be returned by December 7, and the Sojourner House gifts by December 21.

On behalf of the Deacons, we would like to thank everyone again for the continued support of the annual Angel Tree. For help, please contact Nicole Seghi (412-496-3550), Chris Brussemi (412-571-0599), or Jan Fraer (412-720-8588).

**Every year, the most faithful supporters of the Unity Food Pantry are the members of the Unity congregation. Once again, in lieu of sending Christmas cards, you may wish to consider sending a donation to the Pantry to help sustain its work.** Checks should be marked "In Lieu of Cards" and sent to the church office so that we may acknowledge the generosity of all such donors. Your continuing support through prayers and encouragement is deeply appreciated by the coordinators, volunteers and especially the client families who are served by our Food Pantry.

**The Unity Food Pantry is asking the congregation for assistance in serving our neighbors in need during the coming holiday months.** Clean, intact plastic and paper bags are once again being accepted; please leave them in the grocery carts in the office vestibule. Boxed, cold cereal, potato mixes and dessert mixes are needed, and can also be placed in the same grocery carts. And to enable Unity Food Pantry clients to celebrate more joyfully this Thanksgiving and Christmas, the pantry is accepting donations of \$10 and \$20 Giant Eagle gift cards. Thank you for helping us to help our neighbors in need! (Please note--the food pantry will not be accepting donations of clothing or household items any time in the foreseeable future).

**"The Cozy Purple Unicorn" is a project being spearheaded by friends and family of Emma Schaub.** Emma was a young lady who loved volunteering at the Unity Food Pantry with her classmates from the Life Skills class at Chartiers Valley Intermediate School. Emma passed on to the Kingdom Triumphant in February at the age of 11. To honor her memory, donations of warm winter accessories are being collected and will be distributed to the client families at the Unity Food Pantry. Anyone wishing to participate can assemble a package of warm winter accessories (ex. scarves, gloves, hats, socks) and place them in a gallon size storage bag and label according to size/gender. You can drop your package in the designated shopping cart in the office vestibule. Donations will be accepted until December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**It's time to place your Poinsettia Order for this Christmas Season.** The poinsettias will grace the church chancel area on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and our Christmas Eve Services. You can order red, pink, or white and place them in memory in honor of someone. You can fill out a form using the link on our website or you can call the office to place an order 412-561-2431. Orders must be received by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thoughts from our friends at ACS Technologies (Realm) and your church staff: *"Although this season feels like it's dragged on forever, history shows that things will change. We'll find our new normal and the world will eventually begin to feel stable again. As a human race, we're pretty resilient and it'll take some time, but we will adjust. This isn't forever. It won't always feel this hard and we need to remind each other of this daily. There are times when each of us will need to lament, that this is not okay and we do not like what is happening. We miss our old lives and the way things used to be. We also need to be reminded why it is going to be okay. Because God is not surprised by what's happening, and He is still in control. We serve a God that has our best in mind. There is purpose in our pain, and He doesn't make mistakes. This is who we serve and are loved by."* Your Unity church leaders would like to remind you that we are a community that will get through this together, and that we have many opportunities for prayer, worship and Bible study. Please check our web site for those opportunities. *"There will always be tension in our lives and therefore in our church. It's up to us to help each other manage that tension. It can shake us up and cause isolation, or it can be used to strengthen our individual faith and our community."*

Please continue to offer prayer support for the teachers related to the life of our Congregation.

Megan Straub	Teacher at Foxbank Elementary School
Lisa Goodworth	North Hills School District
Bruce Goodworth	North Hills School District
Lauren Allhouse	North Hills School District
Craig Madge	Music Teacher at Upper St. Clair
Leigh Growall	Speech Teacher in Pittsburgh Public Schools

Jennifer Johnson	Food Worker at Chartiers Valley
Terry Oberst	South Fayette School District
Colleen Tortorella	High School Counselor at Gateway High School
Meagan Cummins	Special Education Teacher for McGuffey Middle School
Julie Rubritz	Preschool Teacher at Bethany Presbyterian Church (Teaching online)

Continued prayers for all essential and front-line workers as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to unfold.

Jennifer Heidkamp	Oncology Nurse for UPMC @ Oxford Drive Office
Leah Hart	Nurse at Hillman Cancer Center
Cathy Schilero	Nurse at Cleveland Clinic (2 <sup>nd</sup> Cousin of Martha & Joanne Bald)
Ben Gery	Pittsburgh Police Officer
Brandon Stevens	Pittsburgh Police Officer (Grandson of Joanne Kromer)
Jillian Figorski	Nurse in ICU at Jefferson Hospital
Ben Cunningham	Doctor in New York Hospital
Ted Schroeder	AGH Doctor
Michelle Clay	Physician's Assistant at McGee Hospital in Delivery Arena
Ashley Antonucci	Home Health Nurse
Jaime Gottschall	Respiratory Therapist
Meleanie Brown	CCU Nurse @ St. Clair, currently being used for patients with the virus.
Annali Criswell	Cashier at Giant Eagle
Walter Figorski	Director of Food Services /Parking a@ West Penn
Lauren Campbell	Traveling Nurse / (Niece of Ron & Chris Brusceci)
Joyce Slater	Nurse @ St. Clair Hospital (Niece of Ron & Chris Brusceci)
Brooke Fuehne	Nurse in St. Louis going back to work after maternity leave. (Niece of Ron & Chris)
Patti Allison	Nurse at West Penn Hospital
Leslie Raboin	Lab Technician dealing with Covid-19 (Niece of Ron & Chris Brusceci)