



*“growing a family  
to reach a community”*

Loving God, loving one another, and embracing  
our community and world with Jesus

# *Lord's Day Worship*

*December 18, 2022*

## *Call to Worship*

Isaiah 40:1-5

*Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling, "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

***O Come O Come Emmanuel***

Song

***Man of Sorrows***

Song

Opening Prayer

## *Confessing Our Sins Together*

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Holy God, in this season of Advent, we confess that we often are distracted by the season's busyness, wearied by the stress of commitment, and preoccupied with putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas. We confess that we are often more sentimental than sacrificial, and spend far too much time focused on gifts and not You, the Giver.**

**Forgive us for all the times we have missed speaking to others about Jesus, for all the times we have doubted Your faithfulness to Your Word, and for all the times we have failed to honor You. Thank you that Jesus came to forgive sinners such as us. We rest our prayer of confession on His work, and offer it to You in His name. Amen.**

## *Rejoicing in Our Forgiveness*

John 10:27-30

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."*

***He Will Hold Me Fast***

Song

***It Was Finished Upon that Cross***

Song

Praying for the Work of Our Missionaries

*Elder Roy Van Camp*

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

***What Child Is This***

Hymn #213

## ***Hearing God's Word Together***

The Gospel According to Mark

Mark 2. 1-12

*The Authority of the Son of Man*

*Rev. Mark Fodale*

***Whom Shall I Fear***

Song

Benediction

Romans 15:13

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

## *Scripture Reading*

### **Mark 2. 1-12** (English Standard Version)

And when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup> And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

<sup>5</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” <sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

<sup>8</sup> And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? <sup>10</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup> “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” <sup>12</sup> And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

**The Gospel According to Mark**  
**Mark 2. 1-12**  
***The Authority of the Son of Man***

**I. Faith, the Real Motivation (vs. 1-4)**

*“... when Jesus saw their faith ...”*

**II. Forgiveness, the Ultimate Need (v. 5-7)**

*“Son, your sins are forgiven.”*

**III. Jesus, the Ultimate Authority (vs. 6-12)**

Jesus responded with 2 “proofs”:

1. He unveiled the thoughts of their hearts, immediately;
  
2. He did the “harder” thing, immediately.

**IV. Implications for Today**

- Whatever it takes, it is worth it to get to \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Jesus came to meet our deepest \_\_\_\_\_

## *Sermon Quotes and References:*

I've noticed that my time with the Lord is full and rich when I'm desperate—desperate for Him, desperate for wisdom, desperate for joy, desperate to escape the world, the flesh and the devil. Whenever a godly desperation leads me to conclude as I ought, “Apart from you I can do nothing!” then I'm gladly inclined to sit at my Savior's feet. Little can deter me.

Until I start to feel self-sufficient. Invariably, at some point, I find myself feeling more confident, more able. I'll have a day wherein my devotions were lacking but the day was fruitful. And rather than be humbled by the kindness of the Lord, I walk away like one of the nine lepers failing to return in praise and thanksgiving. That growing self-sufficiency cannibalizes desperation and communion.

I'd never say, “I've had enough time with Jesus.” But I am prone to turn that full, joyful, satisfied experience of worshiping at his feet into unspoken permission to seek something else. As CS Lewis contends, I'm far too easily pleased. I'm easily enthralled with the gifts rather than the Giver, with the fading warmth of God's love rather than the crackling fire itself, with the memory of communion instead of the continuing enjoyment of it. There's a strange tendency to taste God's satisfying delights in Christ and then want to taste something else. That wandering taste bud takes me away from active communion with the Master.

*Thabiti Anyabwile,  
Motivations & Hindrances in My Communion with Jesus*

# Providence Activities

December 18, 2022

## Task Schedule

## This Week

## Next Week

Greeting Upper-Level.....	Opdycke.....	J. Thompson / M. Smith
Greeting Lower-Level.....	Nowicki.....	B & C Lacock
Coffee Fellowship Host .....	Wesner / N. Herring .....	None
Nursery.....	Croll .....	None
Nursery Helper .....	N. Detrich / A. Lacock .....	None
Sound Booth.....	Ethan (B) / Heather (L) .....	Nick (B) / Isaac (L)
Congregational prayer led by....	Roy Van Camp .....	Roy Van Camp
Deacon of the Month.....	Gary Stever .....	Gary Stever

## This Week:

Today.....	Christmas Choir Rehearsal. 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary
.....	Discovering Providence Class, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall
.....	Ornament Exchange following worship by the tree in the lower foyer
.....	B & C Lacock's HFG, 12:30 at their home in Quakertown
.....	3D Youth Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m. at church
Tuesday .....	Ladies 2 <i>Chronicles</i> Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the lower-level foyer
.....	Women's Ministry Team Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at church
Wednesday .....	Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Saturday .....	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5:30 p.m. *

## Announcements:

\*You are warmly invited to Christmas Eve Fellowship. Glenn and Diane Henderson are hosting a sweet and savory Christmas Eve fellowship at their home after the Candlelight service around 7 pm. If you are able please bring a finger food to share.

