**Calvary United Church of Christ**

 **1231 Route 100 Barto, PA 19504**

 **610-652-5023**

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 **calvaryucc@gmail.com**

“Sharing God’s Love in Worship, in Fellowship and in Service to our Neighbors.”

***Welcome***

***We are grateful for all who have come to worship our Creator today. Let us come together with joy and love in our hearts. If you should need any assistance please see the greeters. There are children’s busy bags in the rear of the Sanctuary. After worship, please return them. If you are a visitor, we welcome an opportunity to answer any questions you may have about our Faith Community. If you have a prayer concern, we will hold you deeply in prayer. Bless you, friends, and be assured that you are indeed welcome, wanted and loved here!***

***Contributing to Our Worship, Today; December 20th, 2020***

Ministers…………………...…………………..The People of Calvary

Today’s Worship Leader ………………..….…..Rev. Meagan McLeod

 Ushers…………………….…………...……………..…….Consistory

The Altar Flowers this morning are sponsored by Guy, Connie & Kiera Jordan in Honor of Connor Jordan’s Birthday. Happy Birthday Connor!

The Bulletins this morning are sponsored by Karlynn & Jacob Latshaw in Memory of their Grandfather, Karl Latshaw.

***Today, we welcome Rev. Meagan McLeod as our Worship Leader!***

#####  *WE COME INTO GOD’S PRESENCE*

**ENTERING INTO WORSHIP**

*As you enter this sanctuary of God, use the time to clear your heart and mind through quiet time and prayer. As you listen to the music of the prelude, prepare yourself to receive the message God has for you.*

*When you see this symbol, †, please stand if you are able.*

 *THE CHURCH GATHERS*

**PRELUDE *“The Four Seasons”***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

†**CALL TO WORSHIP (***after Isaiah 35: 1-10)*

P: Leave your exile behind; God is calling us home.

**C: We'll follow the Way through the desert.**

P: Enter the desert without fear; God's water will quench

 our thirst.

**C: We'll walk the Highway of God's people.**

P: Travel the Highway with joy; God is leading to life

 in abundance.

**C: We'll strengthen weak hands, and support feeble knees;
 We'll encourage the fearful and calm the anxious:
 Rejoice! Be strong! God is with us!**

P: Come, let us worship!

†**JOYOUS DECLARATION**

P: We worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  Amen.

†**INVOCATION *(Unison)***

**God of hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN *“Away in a Manger”***

*(verses 1, 2 & 3)*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,

 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;

 The stars in the heavens looked down where he lay,

 The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

1. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,

But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky

And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

1. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay

Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

***(Please rise as you are able in body and in spirit.)***

†**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**P:** Advent calls us to “wake up!” and rejoice in the hope that is ours. Day is coming, and with it the promise of new hope in Christ, but we must commit to living in the light. And so we pray:

When the heaviness of clinging to “stuff” we no longer need, and bad habits too comfortable to shed, keeps us half asleep and unable to wake up and follow Jesus,
Lord, have mercy;

 **C: Lord, have mercy.**

When the bitterness of hanging on to unhealthy relationships, or jealousies and quarrels, or hurts unforgiven keeps our community weary and unable to recognize the “new thing” God is doing in our midst,
Christ have mercy;

**C: Christ have mercy.**

When a history of injustice and violence unaddressed in community: lead to societal structures that hinder fullness of life for all, when realities of Racism, Sexism, Homophobia, Xenophobia are given form and substance among us,

Lord, have mercy;

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

†**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

 *Silent Confession*

†**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P:The night is far gone, day is on the horizon.
In Christ we are forgiven and given strength to face a new day, rejoicing, and to participate, fully awake, in working for the Kin-dom of God. Let us celebrate this great joy by passing the peace in community.

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord;**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,**

**Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church;**

**The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD*

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**P:** Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that he good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever.  Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Romans 15:13*

*Hebrews 12:1 - 3*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**  ***Rev. Meagan McLeod***

*Moment of Silent Reflection*

**HYMN *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***

*(verses 1, 2, 3 & 4)*

1. O little town of Bethlehem How still we see thee lie Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight
2. For Christ is born of Mary And gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love O morning stars together Proclaim the holy birth And praises sing to God the King And Peace to men on earth
3. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is given So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven No ear may hear His coming But in this world of sin Where meek souls will receive him still The dear Christ enters in
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem Descend to us, we pray Cast out our sin and enter in Be born to us today We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel O come to us, abide with us Our Lord Emmanuel.

*RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have kissed.  May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation.  Amen.

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

*DEPARTING TO SERVE*

**DEPARTING HYMN *“Joy to the World! The Lord is Come”***

*(verses 1, 2, & 3)*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing And heaven, and heaven and nature sing
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat the sounding joy
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground

He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found. Far as, far as the curse is found.

**†BLESSING**

**†BENEDICTON**

**DEPART IN PEACE**

**POSTLUDE *“The Holly and the Ivy”***

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***In the Spirit of Prayer…***

* *Robert Kline* as he is under the care of Hospice in his home.
* *The Kahler Family* as they mourn the loss of *Lawrence Kahler.*
* *Emil Schultheisz,* as he has been placed in the care of “Caring Hospice” at Chestnut Knoll.
* Please hold our *Future Interim Pastor* in prayer as God prepares him/her for ministry with us.

\*If you have any prayer requests, you may submit them through the link on the website, send them to *calvaryucc@gmail.com* or you may leave a message for the office, *610-652-5023*.

BUDGETED WEEKLY EXPENSES ~ $2,134.44

TOTAL INCOMING FUNDS:

Combined total for 11/29 & 12/6 ~ $12,025.82\*

*\*also includes the $8,542.10 profit of the Annual Bazaar, Bake Sale, Flea Market & Basket Raffle\**

***Those of you physically present at Calvary today are invited to drop your offering in the plate in the rear of the Sanctuary. Anyone giving electronically, may do so anytime by using their smartphone to scan the QR Code below.***



***Whatever your preference, and whatever you can give,***

***We Thank You for your generosity!***

***We are the church because of you!***

*\*Please pick up an announcement sheet for December in the greeting area, next to the attendance sign-in sheet*



 ***December 20, 2020***

***Join us for***

***Christmas Eve Worship &***

***Holy Communion,***

***Thursday December 24th, beginning at 4:00pm at Calvary UCC.***

***Worship will also be available via Facebook Live.***