

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

15733 Dover Road
Upperco, Maryland 21155

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent



Advent Candle Lighting for Advent 1

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

Lighting the Wreath

Hymn # 715 Christ, Be Our Light (vs. 1)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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Welcome and Announcements

Hymn # 244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (vs. 1, 3, & 4)

Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

The saints, who here in patience
their cross and sufferings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.

**Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!**

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Prayer Concerns and Announcements

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lesson – Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Response: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us salvation. *Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel – Mark 13:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark:

‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Response: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “Wait...Just Wait!”

**Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.**

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Prayers of the Church

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and quickly come to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near.

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Lord in your mercy,

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond to justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer.

We pray for people who are in peril by the effects of Covid-19 and seasonal change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Grant healing touch to all who are ill especially those whose names we speak aloud (pause for quiet prayer), in our hearts (again pause...) and those whose names fill the list of ongoing prayer concerns of this community of faith. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing

**My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.
You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall.**

**My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.
You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall.**

**My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.
You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall.**

**My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.**

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Sending

We Welcome All Our Visitors and Friends to Our Worship Service Today

To all of you, we extend an invitation to return often, your presence is a blessing to us; we hope that soon we will be able to worship together again. Do come and be with us. If you are interested in becoming a member, please see or call Pastor Carl. All are welcomed to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion or to receive a blessing.

Please keep the following individuals in your prayers



Members: Mark, Hazel, Ruth, Jen, Maidie, Vivian, Colton, Bud, Carolyn & John, Carliana, Shriver, Andy, Hannah, Denise, Glenys, Matthew, Nadine, Peter, Moore family, Neuheisel family, Gene, Katie, Fleming family, and all homebound members.

Family & Friends: Jerry, Bernie & Chris, Nunan Family, Mike, Darlene, Frank, Erin, Clyde, Kary, Jim & Barbara, Kevin, Jack & Elinor, Heidi, Peggy, Laura, Bruce & Jamie, Karen, Caroline, Sonia, Addison, Ashlee, Maverick, Pat, Wade, Family and friends of Liz Neese, Family of Caroline Marshall, Bannister family, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

Weekly Offering

- [Donate online via Tithely](#)
- In person during outdoor worship
- Send offering by mail:
15773 Dover Road
Upperco, MD 21155



Church News



The Congregation Council adopted a recommendation that
Worship services will be virtual until further notice.

TODAY: First Sunday of Advent

- Virtual Worship via [SPC YouTube Channel](#)
- Sunday School via Zoom at 10:30am
- LIVE Coffee & Fellowship Gathering via Zoom at 10:00am

NEXT SUNDAY – Second Sunday of Advent

- Sunday, November 29th, Virtual Worship via [SPC YouTube Channel](#)
- Confirmation Class will be held by Zoom at 7:00pm
- Sunday, December 6th, Christmas Wishes are due back
 - **There will be a gift drop off at the church parking lot between 10:00 and 10:30am.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, December 8th, Adult Bible Study, 7:00pm
- Sunday, December 13th, 2nd Offering - St. Dymas
- Sunday, December 13th, Sunday School via Zoom at 10:30am
- Tuesday, December 15th, Church Council, 7:00pm