

Welcome to...

We're glad you're here!

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### What's up in worship?

**This month:** Advent asks us to recognize the future return of Christ and yet the present "God with us." Our journey home, no matter what life throws at us, is never absent from the presence of Christ! **Today** Part two of "Come Home." We talk about our own personal faith journeys, but the One who is doing the moving is Jesus – that is, Jesus "moved" in history, and He will, do so again. What's our job in this homecoming? To prepare the path. God comes to us, but the way to our hearts must be made ready. **Next week:** Part three of "Come Home." The *Magnificat* is a beautiful statement of one who was ready to receive Jesus into her life. This initial humility and openness to receive him miraculously into her life is perhaps the greatest example of how we can do the same. How can we prepare for the homecoming of Christ into our lives by creating the same conditions that Mary did in order to receive him?

### **Today's Community Connections:**

- The altar flowers are presented today by Barbara and Stephanie in memory of Daniel Reimers; and by mother Shannon in memory of Todd Kuhns. If you are interested in providing fresh flowers for worship, please sign up at the *Connections Corner* table. (See bullet point below.)
- Feel like you missed something? The *Connections Corner* table can help. Head across the atrium and get the information you need just under the tv monitor.
- Don't receive our weekly e-news? Please email Sue Kiefner at: [SueK@wesleychurch.com](mailto:SueK@wesleychurch.com) to get on the list!
- Have you seen our new website? Ric Lehman has been working diligently to update it. Go check it out! Look next to the graphic above for where to go...
- Those who have assigned giving envelope numbers will please pick up their 2018 envelopes on the table just outside the library. Requests to have a number assigned to you can be shared with Sharon Schultz.
- All those who did not yet receive a Finance team mailing can pick that information up on the same table. It consists of a letter and a 2018 pledge card.
- If you forgot your completed pledge card today, please see an usher. They have extras!
- There is NO Christian Education offered next week, December 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Wesley Church, in partnership with the Salvation Army (Angel Tree) and Mammy's Angels Giving Tree, is hoping to brighten the holidays of over 120 individuals through your generosity. Take a tag or two from the tree and be a secret angel!
- December 19<sup>th</sup>; Quiet Christmas service. See Bob for details.

### **ADVENT ALERT!**

Due to the timing of Christmas and a few other events happening during the month, our Sunday morning worship schedule is as follows, for ALL SUNDAYS in December: We will worship all together in one blended worship style at 10 AM.

### Wesley Church Staff

Pastor Andy Krpata – Ext 13  
pastorandykrpata@gmail.com  
Minister of Discipleship Bob Keiderling – Ext 11  
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Office Manager and Director of Children's Education Susan L. Matacavage - Ext 12  
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Minister to Youth Brian Graybeal - wesleyyouthleader@gmail.com  
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Children's Choirs Heather Hunter – 610-863-9443  
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Child Care Coordinator Keranie Whipple –  
610-997-0832 kwhipple@rcn.com

### **Today's morning schedule:**

8:30 – Adult Sunday School  
9:00 – Sunday School for children  
10:00 – Blended worship  
Hospitality is offered in the atrium.

† invites all to stand, if able.

## Blended Worship Order

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017; 10:00 AM – The Third Sunday of Advent

### Prelude

Carillon on "Sleepers, Wake" (arr. D. Paxton)

Frank Arbushites, piano

### † Welcome and Greeting

Bob Keiderling, Minister of Discipleship

### † Praising God in Song

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

#213, United Methodist Hymnal

*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord/Open the Eyes of My Heart*

The Ensemble

### Advent Wreath Lighting

The Jacobsen Family, readers

Reader: "The LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed. ... Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts." (Psalm 126:3, 5)

Reader: God of Joy, you enter the wilderness of our world and proclaim that there is a way to reach home again.

Reader: God of Joy, you break through clouds of despair and sorrow to bring good news to your people.

Reader: God of Joy, you send hope into the world in the form of a tiny baby.

**All: We, God's people, sing songs of joy with the prophet, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God" (Isaiah 61:10).**

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle, knowing that joy is our true home.

*Light three candles (two purple, and then the pink).*

**All: Sung Response:**

***O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel***

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 and John 1:6-8,19-28

Patti Tironi, Reader

### Children's Message

Pastor Andy

### Anthem

*The Hills of Judea Ring* (Joseph Martin)

Chancel Choir

The hills of Judea ring with the song the angels sing  
The hills of Judea ring as the song keeps echoing.  
Glory to God, Glory to God they sing.  
Glory to God, Glory to God and the song of joy keeps echoing.

The hills of Judea glow as stars shine bright as day.  
The hills of Judea glow as one star points the way,  
the way to Bethlehem where a King is born tonight,  
the way to a lowly stall that cradles the Lord of all. (repeat first verse)

Glory be to God,  
Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth  
O glory to God, Glory to God!

### Congregational Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Bob and Pastor Andy

Whether offering your prayer aloud or keeping it confidential, please continue to fill out the blue cards and place them in the offering so that the prayer team may continue to faithfully do its work. Thank you!

**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.**

<b>Message</b>	<b><i>“Coming Home: The Journey”</i></b>	Pastor Andy
<b>Musical Response</b>	<i>While You Were Sleeping</i> (Mark Hall)	The Ensemble

Oh, little town of Bethlehem,/Looks like another silent night.  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep,/A giant star lights up the sky.  
And while you're lying in the dark,/There shines an everlasting light.  
For the King has left His throne,/And is sleeping in a manger tonight, tonight.

Oh, Bethlehem what you have missed,/While you were sleeping.  
For God became a man,/And stepped into your world today.  
Oh, Bethlehem you will go down in history,/As a city with no room for its King,  
While you were sleeping,/While you were sleeping.

Mary shivers in the cold trying to keep the Savior warm  
Born among the animals wrapped in dirty rags,  
Because there was no room for Him in the world He came to save. (to chorus)

O little town of Bethlehem, looks like another silent night,  
As we're sung to sleep by philosophies that leave so many long-ing.  
And while we're lying in the dark,/There's a shout heard 'cross the east-ern sky,  
For the Bridegroom has returned and has carried His bride away  
In the night, in the night.

O Bethlehem, what will we miss while we are sleeping?  
Will Jesus come again and leave us slumb'ring where we lay?  
O Bethlehem, will we go down in history/As a city with no room for its King?  
Will we be sleeping?/Will we be sleeping?/O Bethlehem, will we be sleeping?

### † Receiving Pledges, Tithes, Offerings, and Prayers

All are invited to come forward with their commitment card and today's tithes, offerings and prayers. Every person is encouraged to participate, especially in family groups. You may want to come forward even if you do not offer a pledge as a sign of your internal commitment. (However, our ushers will have cards available for you, if you simply request their attention.) Our guests are welcome to participate as well, as a sign of your Christian commitment elsewhere. Please come down the center aisle only and place your cards and offerings in the receptacle. Music during this commitment time:

<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	The Ensemble
<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i> (arr. Raney)	Frank, piano

<b>Community Connections</b> (Please see front of bulletin)	Andy and Bob
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<b>† Closing Song:</b>	<i>Even So, Come</i>	The Ensemble
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<b>† Benediction and Choral Response:</b>	<i>Walk in the Light</i> (N. Price/D. Besig)	Chancel Choir
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May the light of God shine down on us  
as we leave this quiet place.  
May we go and share with all of the world  
the blessings of God's grace.  
With the hope and love, joy and peace  
the Advent promise brings,  
Let us wait and watch with open hearts  
to welcome our Lord and King.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."*  
Philippians 4:6 New Living Translation

**PRAYER REQUESTS FROM DEC. 10<sup>th</sup>** **Cindy Ellis** for my aunt, Jean Schumacher, having hip replacement. **Donna Giardina** for my brother & brother-in-law, Frank Madura for God's wisdom & grace for all caregivers & Thursday Night Men's Group. **Deborah Renowden** for friend Gail Clotier, with major surgery on 12/12/17. **Ray & Lin Robey** for Laurie's continued recovery, Jack & Maryann, for friends struggling with the holidays after losing loved one, & continued prayers for Derek. **Deb Silliman** for quick healing for Tracey L. **Audrey Vigilanti** for Ricky Sterner- home for weekend & doing well. Pray for next 3 months of rehab. **Reggie Young** for testing & PET scan for 2 nodules. **Prayer Team** for Kasey Renowden, now at home. She has a loop recorder implanted to monitor heart issues.

**PRAYER REQUESTS FROM DEC. 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Joan & Bob Barlieb** continue praying for granddaughter, Kyleigh Kerecz, (13). Her back surgery was successful but recovery process slow, especially for teenager. **Irene Bradt** comfort for family of cousin who died unexpectedly. The Matushah family overwhelmed as they didn't know loved one's medical condition until just before passing. **Bob Keiderling** for his sister, Pat Solazzo, diagnosed with breast cancer. **Lois Donchez** for niece Debbie- airlifted to hospital with serious heart problem. **Chris Foster** for Ruby battling cancer; Joshua Raysor & family. Health, peace & prosperity for all, especially those subject to shortfalls of grace, safety and medical services. **Gary Jerabek** for daughter Becky, expecting 2<sup>nd</sup> child, a girl, in May. **Tom & Bonnie Keel** pray for husband Tom undergoing stent procedure. Also for brother Chris Pucci, that he may receive a kidney as he is on dialysis. **Sandy Kereczman** we continue to pray for Andy as they do research for his rare form of cancer. **Lockhart family** for safe travels for nephew Tyrell and girlfriend Heather. **Karen Marmaras** for Rosie & Don, both recovering from surgery. Safe travel for Peter. **Rebecca Roe** for healing for herself, toxic black mold illness; and for her daughter Pamela's divorce. **Deb Silliman** for Safe travel for all during Advent season. Strength & healing for those struggling. Help us keep Christ in our celebrations. Pray for Aunt Ruth in hospice. **Chuck & Wendy Stehly** for Luce family as they cope with the passing of father & husband Dick. **Kasey Renowden** for Austin, newborn, with necrotizing pneumonia, which is basically eating his lungs away. He is in Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL; for cousin Dick (Jeanette) with stage 4 lung cancer; and for niece Brenda with bone cancer.

**JOYS AND PRAISES:** **Laurie Bilheimer** rejoicing over Scott's improving health & upcoming events for kids. **Louis Horwath** now in rehab after cancer surgery. **Karen Marmaras** rejoices over arrival of great nephew Colin Thomas. **Shirley Brandon's** sister Frances doing better, is now home. **Karen Schaefer** gives thanks for the joy in our church! **Audrey Vigilanti** rejoices that daughter Nikita had triplets. **Deb Silliman** grateful for children at Wesley & Circle of Friends. **Karen Rupp** thankful for the music in service

**PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO:** The Collins family on the passing of **Harley Collins**.

**CONTINUED HEALING /PRAYER CONCERNS:** **Melissa Day** for her cancer and treatments. **Ray Buckno** for the continued healing of his mouth and face. **Betty Holt** needs for prayers for lung concerns. **Karen Marmaras** for Peter's Mother, Kate. **Mike & Suzanne Krom** for Theresa for healing of cancer. **Chuck & Wendy Stehly** ask prayers for Jeff, brain cancer; for Ivelisse, breast cancer. **Suzanne Hastie's** parents Aaron & Janice as struggles with change and health issues. **Cindy Ivins** friend Rebecca Flores has several weeks chemo followed by radiation. **Walter Migliori** for friend Barb Brown, has bone cancer.

**THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP:**

<b>At Home:</b> George & Martha Danner, Betty Hein, Naomi Jones	
<b>Gracedale</b> Nancy Breon, Jane Sandt, Dorothy Collin	<b>Arlington</b> (Easton) Sylvia Thele
<b>Moravian Village</b> Agnes Smith, Loretta Jensen	<b>King's Daughters</b> Gertrude Kunsman
<b>Traditions of Hanover</b> Marian Jeffery	<b>Traditions HOA</b> Betty Holt
<b>Westminster Village</b> Howard & Shirley Beiseigel	<b>Sterling Heights</b> Peggy Jacobson
Irvin & Lorene Arnold	<b>Kirkland Village</b> Barbara Guldner
<b>Manor Care</b> Frances Brandon	

### WESLEY CHURCH MINISTRIES:

Our teachers and facilitators; Good Grief: Men's & Women's Small groups, TEACHRWanda; Visitation/Stephen Ministry; We've Got Your Backpack Day; Backpack Buddies; Cancer Support Group; Wesley Community Garden; Outreach Depot.

We ask that you please update your prayer request information at least every two weeks.  
This ensures that your request will remain on the Prayer List. Thank you.

"Prayer is where the action is." John Wesley