

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Tatamy, Pennsylvania**

Worship Leaders: Pastor Dan Schroeder and Jeff Heald

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Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Ernest G. Shaffer

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation

Third Sunday in Advent – December 14, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND TOLLING OF THE BELL

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

May it be so!

Let us worship the living God!

HYMN #160 ***Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn***

CONFESSION

Great Redeemer, too often we allow the idea of absolute happiness to block the existence of joy from our daily lives. Our hopes are crushed under the weight of the world's sorrows, and our peace is disturbed by the agonies of an interconnected existence. We race toward solutions without pausing to meditate on the greater good. We lay bare the sorrows we carry without acknowledging the small delights that make the fight against injustice worthwhile. Relieve us of the pain we

wear as a badge of honor, ignoring your love, even as it surrounds us.

ASSURANCE

Our loving God does not spare us from pain, as empathy is born from suffering; but neither does God remove joy from our lives as a punishment for our indiscretions. We are bound together with a sacred braid of hope, peace, and joy designed to hold fast against the greatest adversities. In faith, no anguish can take hold completely; no sorrow completely outweigh the possibility of joy. Praise be to God!

RESPONSE (tune “What Child is This”, no refrain)

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful words of thankful praise.**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 11: 2-11

MEDITATION “Tell What You Hear and See”

HYMN #161 ***People, Look East***

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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.**

OFFERING / OFFERING RESPONSE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow:
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above the heav’nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Precious God, take these gifts in the spirit they were given, with joy and love for our siblings around the world. Let us remember that we all have times of trouble. We will each stand before you, hands clasped in prayer, begging for relief. Use what we have here to bring that relief where it is needed most.

Amen

HYMN #176 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION (#157 verses 1 and 4)

Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body;

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now, Hope of unity, make us one body;

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Mandy Muschett and Sharon Schrantz to St. Peter's and appreciate their leadership this morning!

The altar flowers this morning are presented by Paul and Barbara Faust in memory of loved ones.

CONSISTORY MEETING will be held Wednesday at 7 pm.

BIBLE STUDY will meet on Thursday at 10 am.

LIBRARY HOURS—Every Saturday from 10 am until noon, first Wednesday of the month 9 am till 10:30 am and the third Wednesday of the month from 5:30 pm till 7 pm.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

14 Marion Starnes, Karen Konya

20 Adeline Horst

12/7/25 GIVING--\$1,404.00 GIVING THUS FAR--\$65,951.75