

# 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

# Paxton Presbyterian Church

Established 1732



3500 Sharon Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111

717~561~0510, [www.paxtonchurch.org](http://www.paxtonchurch.org)

**December 13, 2020**

Third Sunday of Advent

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

(Take time to prepare your heart to worship God.)

PRELUDE

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

MUSIC INTERLUDE                      Nan Bonnet

**TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN 97 "Watchmen Tell Us of the Night"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek the things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

*(Time of silent reflection)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the Good News. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Praise God. Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MUSIC MOMENT                      Foster Fitch

**TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

MORNING PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

## 108 Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega;  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

6 Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be.  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.

# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.  
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
 Trav-eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.  
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter - ror are with-drawn.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?  
 Watch-man, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui - et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is - ra - el.  
 Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
 Trav-eler, we re - joice to - day, for Em - man - u - el has come!

## TO HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SPECIAL MUSIC

Janet & Rachel Hitz

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

**This is the word of the Lord.**

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Christmas In the Wilderness"

Pastor John Green

HYMN 108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

APOSTLE'S CREED

## TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY

HYMN 119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

## TO GO REJOICING IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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**THERE ARE TWO FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** in the chancel this morning. One is placed in loving memory of Jane's mother, Susan Leahy, by Bill and Jane Sanford. The other arrangement is placed in loving memory of Paul and Elizabeth Grubb and in honor of their wedding anniversary, December 15, 1973 by their daughter, Patricia Groft.

**THE ROSEBUD** is placed in celebration of the birth of Sophie Hana Browne on December 5. Sophie is the daughter of Amy (Woodbridge) and Wesley Browne and granddaughter of Kathy and Bob Woodbridge.

**WE HOLD IN CHRISTIAN MEMORY**, Nancy Wion who joined Paxton Church in 1974 and entered the Church Triumphant on December 6, 2020. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her husband, Dave, family and friends.

**WE HOLD IN CHRISTIAN MEMORY**, Richard Hillman who joined Paxton Church in 1957 and entered the Church Triumphant on December 6, 2020. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his family and friends.

**COINS FOR CARING (C4C):** December Coins for Caring will go to the St. Francis Soup Kitchen. The Soup Kitchen is a vital component of the life of the parish and the city of Harrisburg. You may contribute your coins at church events.

**Christian Churches United – Gift of Music:**

Give the gift of music to help the homeless! Local artists have rallied to create a Christmas album to support the homelessness programs of Christian Churches United. Proceeds will specifically fund a women’s winter walk-in shelter in downtown Harrisburg and other efforts to help people get off the street into long-term housing. It’s a fun album, for a great cause...and is the gift that gives twice: it will bless your friends and family with music, and give the gift of hope to people on the street this Christmas. You can order the album at [www.JoyToTheBurg.com](http://www.JoyToTheBurg.com) (CD or Digital Download) or pick one up at your local Karns Grocery Store. It makes a great Christmas gift!

**Worship & Music Update**

This year the sanctuary will be graced by a Christmas tree in the chancel! Anyone wishing to purchase a red bow to be placed on the tree ***in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend*** may do so by completing the order form and returning it to the church office.

**Bows are \$5 each – Order Deadline is Monday, December 14.**

**TREE TRIMMING:** We invite you to place your bow(s) on the tree on **Saturday, December 19, from 11 am – 3 pm.** Please enter through the south door of the sanctuary to pick up your bow(s) and place them on the tree. What a wonderful opportunity to see Paxton in all her **Christmas** glory! All Covid protocols (masks required & social distancing) will be followed. For those unable to attend, we will place your bow(s) on the tree for you!



**Christmas Tree Bows Order Form**

**Bows are \$5 each – ORDER DEADLINE MONDAY, DECEMBER 14**

**Checks may be made payable to Paxton Presbyterian Church and must accompany this slip. Please use the exact wording you would like in the bulletin:**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Bows: \_\_\_\_\_ X **\$5** Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes! I will stop by Saturday, December 19 between 11am & 3pm to place my bow(s) on the tree.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to attend – please place my bow(s) on the tree for me!