

same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom is near. ³²I assure you that this generation won't pass away until everything has happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

³⁴"Take care that your hearts aren't dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One."

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Ready or Not...

Rev. Glen Shedlock

WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

*HYMN #102 New Century Hymnal (NCH)

O How Shall I Receive You

*BENEDICTION (Unison)

From A Prayer By Henri Nouwen

As I return to the sacred dance of my daily living, teach me, O God, to ask the questions that matter most: Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I speak words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? Yes, Divine Friend, as this Advent season unfolds, teach me to ask the questions that matter most. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Spirit of God (verse 2)

Steve Garnaas Holmes

Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name, the power to heal, to share your love everywhere. We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all, held in your hands, born on your wings. Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come!

*POSTLUDE

Birthday of a King

Arr. Anthony Burger

Mission Statement:

God calls us to live our faith as disciples

Sharing the love of God revealed through Christ

In the community and the world.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

Transitional Pastor: *Rev. Glen A. Shedlock*

Minister of Music: *Benjamin Knight*

Choir Director: *Kimberly Knight*

Secretary: *Kelly Gerstenberger*

Alcolyte: *Kristen Howe*

Altar Flowers: *Thank you!*

Liturgist: *Bob Kindel*

PowerPoint: *Kathie Richards*

Ushers: *Thank you!*

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847

† www.pilgrimcf.org †



Sunday, November 28, 2021



Ready or Not . . .
Rev. Glen Shedlock

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
† **Sunday, November 28, 2021** †
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUST BREATHE: (One minute of centering) Prayer by Cristine Sine
One: God of New Beginnings, in this time between the times of Now but Not Yet, between Conception and Completion, of Promises Half Formed and Dreams Still Emerging, help us to let go of all that holds us bound. Enable us to see clearly the Light that beckons us forward towards your Love. Give us Wisdom and Patience for the journey into the new life you are creating for us and all creation. Amen.

THE PRELUDE On This Day the Earth Shall Sing Arr. Larry Shackley

*CALL TO WORSHIP Bob Kindel
One: It doesn't matter whether you have faith, whether you are cynical or despairing, hope-filled or hope-less: what matters to God is simply that you are here.

Many: We are entering the time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas. Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives we need to prepare for it.

One: We need to make space in our lives where love might be born.

Many: As we gather in our tiny corner of a harsh and dark world, let us practice being ready in the hope that Christ brings.

*HYMN #166 New Century Hymnal (NCH) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

WE LIGHT OUR FIRST ADVENT CANDLE—HOPE Dan & Kelly Gerstenberger

One: Today we begin our celebration of Advent. On these four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we will rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Jesus Christ. To help us celebrate, we will be lighting the candles of the Advent wreath. The candles signify that Jesus is the Light of the World. The evergreens remind us that he is life and brings life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end. Each Sunday we will light an additional candle. Then on Christmas Eve, we will light all the candles, including the center one, the Christ candle. As we do, we will rejoice that Christ has come to us. On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope. Hope is our assurance that God is finishing all God has

started. Hope is our confidence that God will do all God has promised. All the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is our hope, today and forever!

All: Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift! Dear God, as we begin our Advent journey to Bethlehem, grant us the courage to hope. Hope for your presence, Hope for your peace, Hope for your promise. Amen.

HYMN #122 New Century Hymnal (NCH) Come, O Long Expected Jesus

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERING DEDICATION Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Mark Hayes

JOYS & CONCERNS

TODAY'S "ARMS OF LOVE" are wrapped around **Ruth Fowler !**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

All: 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!

SPECIAL MUSIC Tiny Baby, Little One Ruth Elaine Schram

THE WITNESS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE - Bob Kindel

Luke 21:25 - 36 CEB

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. ²⁶**The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world.** ²⁷**Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor.** ²⁸**Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”** ²⁹Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰**When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.** ³¹**In the**

WELCOME

We joyfully welcome all visitors!
Please join us again!

We are very glad You chose to Worship with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

- ◇ Brynn testing for possible cancer.
- ◇ Kelly upcoming surgery on November 30th.
- ◇ Those dealing with and healing from COVID for: Nick, Fairlawn Paramedic/Firefighter; Mike, Akron Police; Taylor, Army in Alaska; Diane, Lynchburg, Tennessee; Churches with many COVID cases; Tammy & Harvey Curtis; Jim Albright & Linda Middleton.

Thank you to everyone for wearing masks and social distancing!

- ◇ Healing for Jeff, Missi & Glen dealing with medical issues.
- ◇ Answers for Andrew, Mark Opritza's father, seeking options for carotid artery blockages at 94 years old.
- ◇ The Kraft family experiencing the death of a grandmother and aunt in a short time.
- ◇ Those who... have left the church, are enemies of the church, and have not found a church. The poor and the hungry.
- ◇ The safe return of the Missionaries from Wayne county.
- ◇ Everyone to "Love their neighbors as they love themselves."

Prayers & Praises

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you ... to everyone who ... have continued to send-in contributions!

Contributions Received:

\$ 3,691.00	October 3, 2021	\$ 2,036.00	November 7, 2021
\$ 2,261.00	October 10, 2021	\$ 5,450.00+	November 14, 2021
\$ 4,525.00+	October 17, 2021	\$ 5,159.50+	November 21, 2021
\$ 8,042.50+	October 24, 2021	\$	November 28, 2021
\$ 2,271.00	October 31, 2021		
\$20,790.50+	October Totals	\$12,645.50	November Totals

+Ameriprise-Reserve Income (Asset Movement) \$4,000.00 + \$5,000.00 + 2,500.00
+3,000.00 = \$14,500.00

- **ACME Community Cash Back** receipts are being collected. See the box across from the restrooms in the education wing.
- **Handbell Rehearsals** are Monday's at 4:30 p.m. in the Music Room. All are welcome to join in the ringing.
- **The Mitten Tree** is up outside the church office ready for gloves, mittens, etc.
- **Toys Around the Manger**, Sunday, December 5th. Gifts for all ages will be collected for Good Neighbors during the worship service.



CALENDAR

Sunday, November 28, 2021: First Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Sanctuary

11:45 a.m. Bible Study, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Heritage Room

Monday, November 29, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

4:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room

6:30 p.m. Leadership Meeting, Heritage Room - All are Invited!

Tuesday, November 30, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

2:30 - 6:45 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

8:00 p.m. Broad Highway group, Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 1, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Legacy Barbershop Quartet Rehearsal, Heritage Room

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons, Adult Library

Thursday, December 2, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Moonlight Serenader's Rehearsal, Music Room

7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

Friday, December 3, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

Saturday, December 4, 2021:

6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, December 5, 2021: Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Rev. Glen A. Shedlock, Sanctuary

11:45 a.m. Bible Study, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Heritage Room

Monday, December 6, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

4:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room

6:30 p.m. Leadership Meeting, Heritage Room - All are Invited!