



About that
day and hour
no one
knows

MATTHEW 24:36

Advent Signs

Few things in life are as jarring as awakening to the shriek of a fire alarm. Of course, that is by design. The safety of those gathered indoors calls for a blaring warning of impending danger so that all might be delivered from harm. Jesus offers a similar signal to his beloveds today, begging us to pay attention to the seriousness of the message he bears: *Be ready! Keep awake! Pay attention to your surroundings! Deliverance is coming soon!*

Advent is a season of preparation, directing our focus toward the incarnation, toward Christmas, when God becomes human and the weary world rejoices. Sometimes preparations take the form of monthslong laborious planning, as we might do for an international trip or the renovation of a home. Other times, preparations must happen immediately, within hours, minutes, or seconds. When a fire alarm sounds, there's no time to plan: We must act quickly, gathering what is most important to get to safety together.

This first Sunday of Advent is a chance to take stock of what is most important in life, to attune our spirits to the reign of heaven that God is birthing in our world. We may be unsettled by these gospel images of the great flood and of field workers being disappeared. Such stories indeed may spark fear, anxiety, and distrust. Yet God comes to be with us amid all the great uncertainties of life, amid the atrocities of human violence, amid the worst of our losses and fears. Jesus reminds us that God is always drawing near to the world, always extending mercy, always acting with love. Mercy and love are Advent signs worth paying attention to, worth staying awake for. Be ready, beloveds, and fear not! God's deliverance is coming soon.

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Millcreek Lutheran Church
First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025

A warm welcome to our church! We appreciate your presence here today and enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. If you are a visitor and believe that Christ is your Savior and present in the Sacrament, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. All children who have received Communion instruction and have been approved to receive Holy Communion either here or at another church are also welcome to commune with us. Any child may come forward for a blessing. Visitors, please sign our guest book or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Eternal God, whose mercy has allowed us to hear your good news of salvation before our Lord's final advent: Give us sensitive hearts and minds to live a new life; that we may not be found unprepared when you call us into eternity. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Serving you this morning:

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Roy Hoglund
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation



Advent Wreath Lighting

We are a people of hope. Our hearts are full of anticipation for the coming of our beloved Christ Child. For God is to be among us and we will see a great light in the midst of our night. Let us light the Candle of Hope.

The first blue candle is lit.

Song: "One Candle is Lit" (stanza 1)

Unison

1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
 2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare
 3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,
 4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,
 5. Come, lis - ten, the sounds of God - with - us ring clear,

1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
 2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
 3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.
 4. where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,
 5. and signs of a cross in the dis - tance ap - pear.

1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
 2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
 3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.
 4. a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.
 5. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ev - er near.

1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
 2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
 3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.
 4. One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.
 5. One can - dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

LBW (green) #25

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

***Greetings**

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***Kyrie**

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Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

Psalms 122 (read responsively)

¹I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord."

²**Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

***The Alleluia Verse**

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***Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Holy Gospel of our Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day

NCH (red) #485

Will Jesus Find Us Watching

***The Nicene Creed**

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Choir Anthem

***The Prayers**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

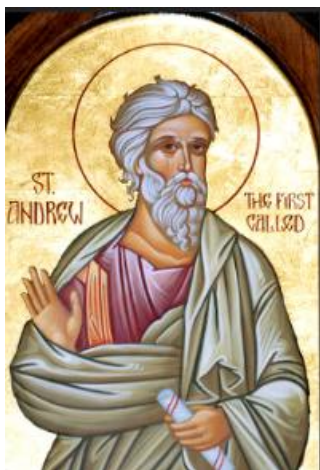
<p>God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, hear our prayer.</p> <p>God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, hear our prayer.</p> <p>God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (<i>especially . . . and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day</i>). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, hear our prayer.</p> <p>God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, hear our prayer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Other intercessions may be offered.</i></p> <p>God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (especially) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace, hear our prayer.</p> <p>Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.</p>	
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*Closing Hymn	LBW (green) #32
<i>Fling Wide the Door</i>	
Moments of Meditation (seated)	
*Dismissal	Page 74
Postlude	

*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God
and in celebration of November birthdays of the
Engle & Tice families.*



Commemoration

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men & women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith. Today we recognize St. Andrew.



St. Andrew the Apostle is recognized for his role as one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. Andrew was initially a disciple of John the Baptist before being called by Jesus to follow him. His mission included bringing his brother Simon Peter to Jesus and later spreading the Gospel to various nations, including Asia Minor and Greece. Andrew is honored for his faith and perseverance. His martyrdom is commemorated on the feast day of November 30.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride-groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as he ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.

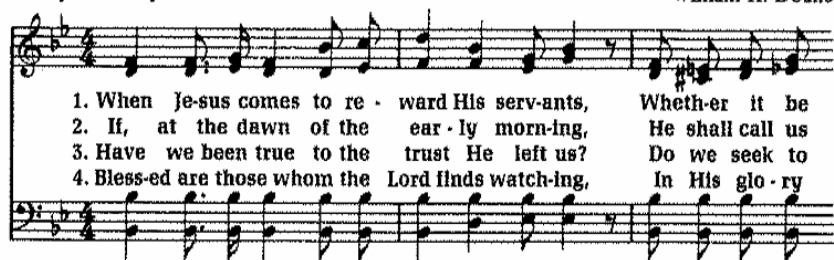
The bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The bride-groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free!

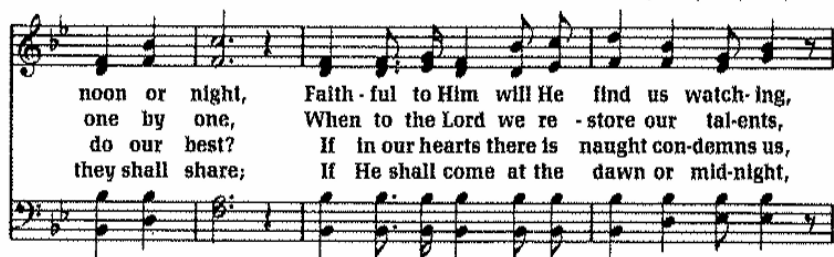
485 Will Jesus Find Us Watching?

Fanny J. Crosby

William H. Doane

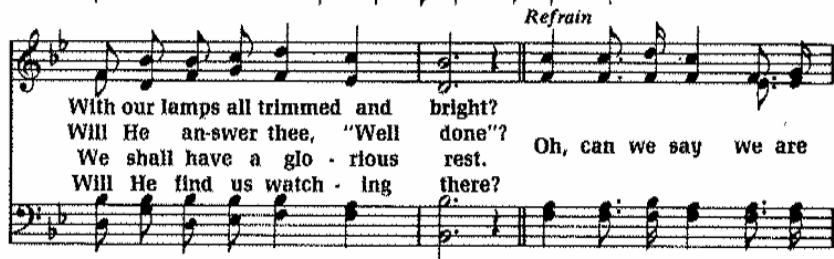


1. When Je-sus comes to re - ward His serv-ants, Wheth-er it be
2. If, at the dawn of the ear - ly morn-ing, He shall call us
3. Have we been true to the trust He left us? Do we seek to
4. Bless-ed are those whom the Lord finds watch-ing, In His glo - ry

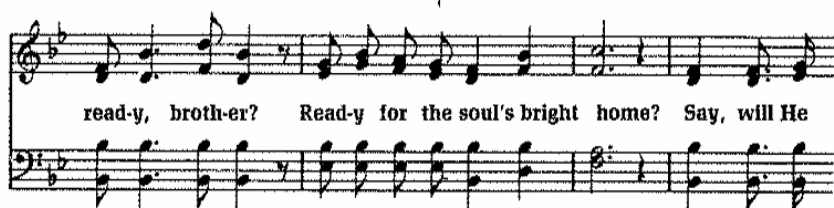


noon or night, Faith - ful to Him will He find us watch-ing,
one by one, When to the Lord we re - store our tal-ents,
do our best? If in our hearts there is naught con-demns us,
they shall share; If He shall come at the dawn or mid-night,

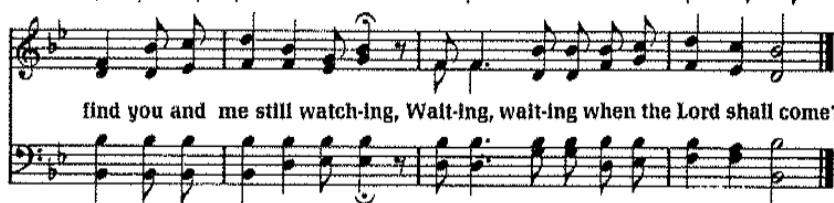
Refrain



With our lamps all trimmed and bright?
Will He an-swer thee, "Well done"? Oh, can we say we are
We shall have a glo - rious rest.
Will He find us watch - ing there?



read-y, broth-er? Read-y for the soul's bright home? Say, will He



find you and me still watch-ing, Wait-ing, wait-ing when the Lord shall come?

Fling Wide the Door

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; The King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, The heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands That live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; Our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; The Lord of lords and King of kings, The
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; His
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, The
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, Up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings His great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; He brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, And let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth And
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, And
 Son of bliss Who fills our lives and makes us his, Cre -
 Spir - it guide Our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song For sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, Our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, From age to age the same!



Our Mission:
**Helping God restore & renew our community,
our congregation, & ourselves.**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Frank Terhune
Cell: 610-751-5472

Email: frankterhune@gmail.com

In Office: Tues. & Fri. 9am-12pm

www.millcreeklutheran.com

Secretary: Jennifer Miller Email: secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

Lay Leader: Jennifer Rosengrant

Sunday, November 30, 2025

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at **10:15 AM**. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.



Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION: Advent is fast approaching. We are bringing back our Reverse Advent Calendar. This time of year, we think about getting. This calendar is all about giving. You can pick one up in the narthex. There is one food item mentioned every day. Completed boxes can be brought during Christmas week to be distributed to local Food pantries to replenish their shelves following the Christmas demand. The need this year is great. We can help feed the hungry. Take the Advent challenge. Together. We can live out Jesus' command to love one another.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sunday, November 23, 2025:

Current Offerings- \$2,815, Plate- \$90, World Hunger- \$100 **Total- \$3,005**

Attendance- 57 Sunday School- 11

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers- \$30, Bulletins- \$10

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS: Starting Sunday November 16th, the table will be set up in the narthex with the gift bags. There are 12 shut-ins currently on our list. Please have all cards and items in the bags by Sunday, Dec. 14th to allow time for bags to be delivered by Christmas. There will be a sign-up sheet to deliver the bags on the table. Any questions or if someone needs added to the list, please tell Nikki Johnson. Thank you.

BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Terhune will begin a weekly adult Bible study for Advent this year and will continue Bible study into 2026. There is a sheet in the Narthex to sign up. We are asking for your preferred time in addition to topics you have an interest in. We may have multiple days and times based upon schedules.

NO SWEET SUNDAY IN DECEMBER.

CHURCH BREAKFAST will be Dec. 13th at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at 8AM. Everyone is welcome with no reservations needed. Inform the hostess of the group you are looking for and she will direct you to our table. You can choose to come every month or only on an occasion. Either way, we'd love for you to be part of our group.

~Nancy Deiter

LESSONS & CAROLS WITH MLC ENSEMBLE: Calling all musicians to join MLC musical ensemble to play Sunday, December 21 at 10:15am service.

Rehearsals will be:
Saturdays, Dec. 6, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20 @ 11:00

If you are available or have any questions, email or text Julie Strickler at 610 207 9650.
Thanks for your consideration!

▪ **Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves**

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:

Paul Zimmerman
139 Sweetwater Lane
Newmanstown, PA 17073

PRAYER LIST: Please make requests to Jen M. by noon Wed. each week:
secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call: 610-589-2570. *Please provide updates when our prayers have been answered, so this list can be kept current.*

MILLCREEK MEMBERS:

Peg Auman	Bryan Breidigam	Joe Buffington
Debbie Hartman	Violet Hepler	Frank Hoffman
Liz Leibig	Barbara Potteiger	Brian Ream
Norm Sharp	Gerry Strickler	Stewart Wolf
Aaron Yiengst	Devon Yiengst	Michael Yiengst, Jr.
Greer Zellers		

NON-MEMBERS:

Mike Nelson, friend of Kristin Bender
Gary Beatty,, friend of Debbie Hartman
JoAnn Deahl, Brandy Gahres’ mother
Linda McMullan, sister in law of Greta McMullan
Candy Hibshman, friend of Rachel Mock
Jennifer Clinton, daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler
Mitch Keath, relative of Mary Ream & Deb Buffington
Richard Shaddinger, nephew of Nancy Deiter
Louise Hainley, cousin of Debbie Tice

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday November 30 – Advent begins with a communion service & lighting of the Advent wreath.
- Sunday December 7– 2nd Advent communion service with Hanging of the Greens – bring an ornament for the tree, children will sing. Service is followed by a light lunch of sandwiches & Christmas cookies.
- Sunday December 14 – 3rd Advent – Children’s Program – The Shepherd’s Story – see the Christmas Story thru the eyes of the shepherds! This service is held in the multi-purpose room.
- Sunday December 21 – 4th Advent – Lessons & Carols – A very simple but special service with special readings and music.
- Sunday December 21 – 5 pm – Quiet Christmas – we have traditionally been doing this service on the night of the Winter Solstice. A very simple service with communion and candlelight. It is especially geared to those who may have suffered a loss in the past year and do not want to face the standard Christmas services.
- Wednesday December 24 @ 10 pm –candlelight communion service filled with music, candles, and joy!
- Sunday December 28 – Christmas continues with our regular worship service. There will be no Sunday School on this date.

Advent Bible Study A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus Tuesdays, 1:00 pm & 7 pm

The Manger and the Inn	November 25
Ancestors, Joseph, & Herod	December 2
Salvation and the Magi	December 9
Atrocity and Welcome	December 16

Take some time to prepare the way
for the Christmas celebration of Jesus’ birth.
We’ll share traditions, Bible study, and faith
as we focus on this meaningful time of getting
ready for Christ.

God's Gift of Love

