

**Shavertown**  
**United Methodist Church**  
First Weekend of Advent

*The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world!*

\* = if you are able, we invite you to please stand

**PRELUDE AND CANDLELIGHTING** *People, Look East* *Organ Arr. Stephen L. Aber*  
Nancy Evans

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Centering Meditation:*  
"We ponder your steadfast love, O God,  
in the midst of your temple."  
Psalm 48:9 NRSV

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Mary Ellen Pajor, Richard Oley, Liturgists  
Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!  
**Be strong and courageous, be careful to live according to everything Moses commanded.**  
Do not let God's Word depart from your mouth.  
**But meditate on it day and night.**  
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.  
**Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts because  
nothing is impossible with our God!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**  
Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN** # 196  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**ADVENT MEDITATION AND LIGHTING** Mary Ellen Pajor/Wendy and Ava Shaffer

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S (DISCIPLE'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 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.

**A MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY** # 94  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, who power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**God of Wonder, you have favored us in so many ways. Today we return blessings and thankfulness to you. Bless these gifts and all gathered here that we may be bearers of your image to the world. Amen.**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Prepare The Way*  
*Small Ensemble of Chancel Choir*

*Michael Barrett*

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Luke 1:26-38 NRSV

**THE MESSAGE**

"Ponder"

Pastor Robin Baer

**\*SONG OF GOING FORTH**

*To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

# 215

1. To a maid engaged to Joseph,  
the angel Gabriel came.  
"Fear not," the angel told her,  
"I come to bring good news,  
Good news I come to tell you,  
good news, I say, good news.

4. "Fear not, for God is with you,  
and you shall bear a child.  
His name shall be called Jesus,  
God's offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever,  
"Forever reign on high."

2. "For you are highly favored  
by God the Lord of all,  
who even now is with you.  
You are on earth most blest,  
you are most blest, most blessed,  
God chose you, you are blest!"

5. "How shall this be?" said Mary,  
"I am not yet a wife."  
The angel answered quickly,  
"The pow'r of the Most High  
will come upon you shortly,  
your child will be God's child."

3. But Mary was most troubled  
to hear the angel's word.  
What was the angel saying?  
It troubled her to hear,  
To hear the angel's message,  
It troubled her to hear.

6. As Mary heard the angel  
she wondered at his words.  
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"  
she said unto her God,  
"So be it, I am ready  
according to your Word."

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go forth to ponder all that God has done, is doing, and will do.

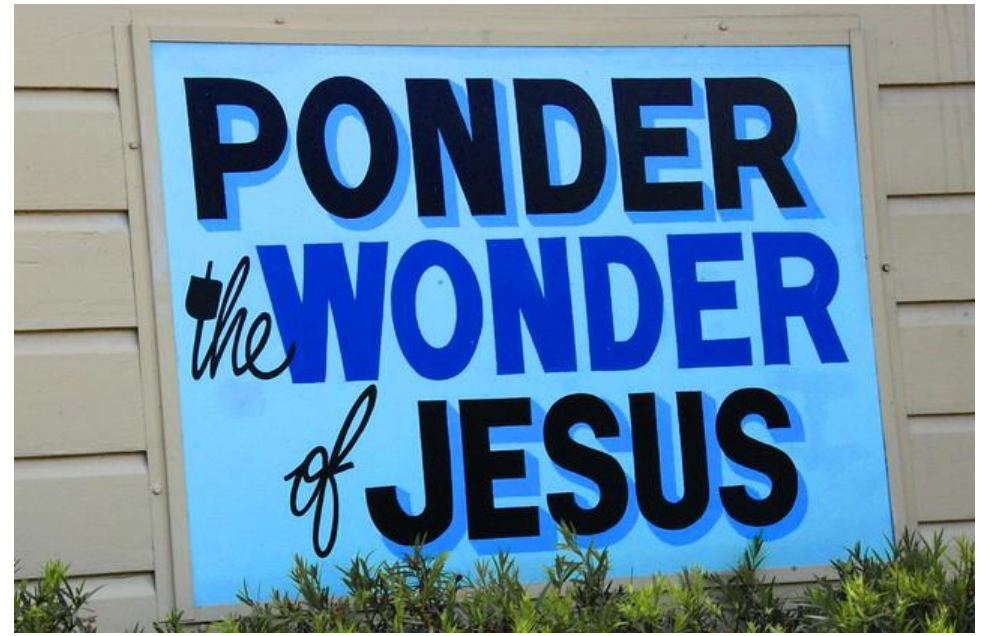
**Nothing is impossible with our God.**

**Hallelujah!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Arr. Bill Wolaver*



**Prepare Ye!**

**November 28, 2020 5:30 PM**

**November 29, 2020 9:30 AM**

**SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**Hospitality Opportunity Prepare Engage**