*Following Christ and Being His Beacon in Our Community*

A close up of a logo

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**Sunday, December 24, 2023 10:30 a.m.**

**Organ Prelude “Gesu Bambino” arr. Caudill**

**“The First Noel” arr. Paxton**

**Call to Worship**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle: Ruth Johnson & Manny Allen**

**\*Opening Carol: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #123**

**Prayer of Confession:**

God of grace and glory we are filled with anticipation as we come closer to Christmas. Many of us are also tired and feel extra stress as we make our preparations. We confess our sins against you and the people around us: our sharp words, our careless actions, our thoughtless responses, our inability to see past ourselves to the deep needs that surround us.

As we prepare to celebrate our Savior’s coming, lead us by your Spirit to recognize and hold fast to the things that matter before you. Teach us to recognize Jesus Christ your Son, our true desire, and to hunger and thirst for all that only he can give.

*Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you.*

Assurance of God’s Grace: Isaiah 55:6-9

**Children’s Sermon**

**Choir Anthem: “Angels We Have Heard on High**

**With Open Up the Heavens”**

**Opportunities to Serve and Announcements**

**Joys, Concerns, God Sightings**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**\*Carol of Preparation: “Good Christian Men Rejoice” #151**

**Scripture Reading: Haggai 2:6-7,**

**Luke 1:26-38, 47-55 Sue Armstrong**

**Haggai 2:6-7 “This is what the LORD Almighty says: “In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake al nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD Almighty**

**Luke 1:46-55**

**46And Mary said:**

**“My soul glorifies the Lord**

**47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

**48for he has been mindful**

**of the humble state of his servant.**

**From now on all generations will call me blessed,**

**49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—**

**holy is his name.**

**50His mercy extends to those who fear him,**

**from generation to generation.**

**51He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;**

**he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.**

**52He has brought down rulers from their thrones**

**but has lifted up the humble.**

**53He has filled the hungry with good things**

**but has sent the rich away empty.**

**54He has helped his servant Israel,**

**remembering to be merciful**

**55to Abraham and his descendants forever,**

**just as he promised our ancestors.”**

**Response to the Scripture:**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Message: Come, Desire of Nations**

Response to the Word:

O Ruler of the nations, monarch for whom the people long, you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity:

**Come, save us all, whom you have formed out of clay. Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Immanuel, our Sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all;

**Come and save us, O Lord our God. Come Lord Jesus. Amen**

**Dedication of Offering**

**\*Closing Carol “Joy to the World” #125**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response: *While We Are Waiting, Come* #242**

***While we are waiting, come;***

***While we are waiting, come;***

***Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,***

***While we are waiting, come.***

**Organ Postlude**

**\* Please stand if you are able**

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| **Ministry of Prayer**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **New Prayer Concerns**: |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | | **Continued Prayers:** | Charlie Bard | | Trish Blough | Linda Brown | | Cheryl Garlick | Ken & Pam Garlick (brother and sister-in-law) of Ed Garlick | | Kevin McClenaghan | Lauren McCrory (niece of Peggy McCauley) | | Jean Risk | Ashley Sottasante (friend of Peggy McCauley) | | Alec Vince | Charlie Winders | | Tara Wood |  | | **Members of the Military** |  | | **Our Missionaries**: |  | | Dan & Tawnny Kramer, Jesus Film | | | GTi Hope Church Planting in India | | | Joe & Corinna Cavenaugh | | | Asaph & Lynn Din | | | N. Caucasus, Russia Team | | |
| **Names will be listed for 4 weeks. If continued prayer is**  **needed, please let Pastor Tom know.** |

**Announcements &Opportunities to Serve the Lord**

**Let’s join together in prayer**: Two options: Sunday Mornings from 9:00-9:15 in the conference room or by Zoom on Fridays at 2:00 p.m.

Please join us as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with a **Service of Lessons and Carols** on Sun., Dec. 31st at 10:30 a.m.

The **Christmas decorations** will be dismantled on Sat., Jan. 6th at 9:00 a.m. Your help would be appreciated.

Looking for something to do that will make a difference in someone’s life? **Joy El’s Bible Adventure** is looking for “listeners” to assist elementary age students in learning Bible verses. The time commitment is approx. 2 hours one afternoon a week. Each of the four elementary schools in Solanco School District offer this program and each school meets at a church in their proximity. Clermont meets at Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren on Wednesday afternoons, If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please see Peggy Gordon for details.

**Looking for ways to improve your health in 2024?** Join the choir – the physical and mental health benefits are endless!

**Pastor Tom** will be away from Mon., Dec. 25th thru Mon., Jan.1st. If you have any pastoral needs during this time, please contact Peggy Gordon at 717-548-2638.

The **decorated holiday box** is now in the lower main vestibule. The cards will be sorted by the Deacons and may be picked up in the social hall after the worship service.

**2024 offering envelopes** are ready and can be found in the social hall. The envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order. Any questions see Peggy Gordon. Thank you!

Has there been a time when you have run short of funds for paying a bill? We have a **Helping Hands Fund** that can help. Please see Pastor Tom for a form. All requests will be kept confidential.

**Why bother with church membership?** First, formal public commitment makes us accountable and produces spiritual growth and character. Second, it allows the church to know who is eligible to vote at meetings and serve as officers for the church. We invite and encourage you to explore church membership through attending CLASS 101 with Pastor Tom. Classes will begin Jan. 14th and will meet at 9:30 Sunday mornings for about 5 weeks. At the end of the classes you may choose then to formally join the church if you like. Questions and to sign up talk with Pastor Tom.

**Bell Choir** meets on Wed. evenings at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome! Please join us for a joyful ringing time. Questions see Karen Keefer.

The small print **Our Daily Bread** booklets for December 2023 and January and February 2024 and the large print **Our Daily Bread** booklets for January, February and March 2024 are here. Take one or more and share with others who might not get this wonderful daily devotional.

**Tithes and Offerings**

There are offering boxes at each exit for you to continue giving to God’s work at Little Britain.

The **Solanco Food Bank** is asking for the following for the month of January: ketchup, toothpaste, tooth brushes, packs of bar soap, baby wipes, diapers (sizes 3,4,5,6, and pull-ups), mayonnaise, pudding cups, fruit cups, applesauce cups, juice boxes, canned chili and boxed flavored potatoes. Thank you for your on-going, generous support of our community. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and blessed Holiday season.

**Sharing Table:**  Please bring baked goods, crafts, etc. Take home whatever you want and leave a donation. The funds are used by the PW to help feed the hungry.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The price for **Altar Flowers** has gone up. The price for 2 vases starts at $60.00 and go up in $5.00 increments. Organ arrangements begin at $50.00 each. They can be ordered by signing the book in the upper narthex and completing the order form and calling Trish Blough (717-572-9277) or emailing ([peblough@comcast.net](mailto:peblough@comcast.net)). You **MUST** contact her by the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you would like your flowers. The order form and check payable to LBPC should be placed in her mailbox.

**Announcements?** Any announcements for the bulletin can be emailed to the church at [lbpc1732@gmail.com](mailto:lbpc1732@gmail.com) or can be placed in Peggy’s mailbox. Thank you!

**In His Service Today:**

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Thomas P. Milligan

Administrative Assistant: Peggy McCauley

Choir Director: Peggy Gordon

Organist: Rick Rineer

Children’s Church: Becky & Hannah

Nursery: Joyce Holloway

Greeter: Carole Huber

**Contact Information**

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Visit us on the web at: www.littlebritainchurch.