ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION

Organ Prelude and Silent Meditation

A Word of Welcome

The Preparatory Service for Holy Communion

(please stand)

Lord, hear my voice; may your ears be attentive to my humble plea.

If you, Lord, did not forgive our sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But you, as a forgiving Lord, must still be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word do I hope.

Call upon God, and he will embrace you. Humble yourselves in his presence and he will exalt you.

We will search our hearts, review our actions, and ask for forgiveness.

And the Lord will answer: I am the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd gives up his life for his sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give to them eternal life.

(please be seated)

Hymn **Upsala**

Deeply moved and duly heeding
my good shepherd's kindly leading.
Bowed with reverence before him,
I would praise him and adore him.
Jesus, heed, me, lost and dying, unto thee for shelter flying,
all my sin and sorrow feeling, I now come for help and healing.

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, our only mediator with God the Father, our mighty Savior and glorious King, we humbly bow before you and confess our many transgressions.

We know that we have often, in word and deed, dishonored the holy name we bear, and have turned away from your path of holiness and loving service which you have called us to follow. Forgive us when we turn away from you, when our hearts turn cold, and when we fall short of your expectations of us.

Have mercy on us, through your loving kindness; continue to forgive us when we sin and open your arms as the shepherd welcomes the lost sheep.

Give us, through the communion of your holy supper, the assurance of our pardon, and greater power of sanctification, a closer union with you, and the joyous expectation of eternal life in the heavenly kingdom.

Hymn **Lacrymae**

While in penitence we kneel, thy sweet presence let us feel,
all Thy wondrous love reveal.
From the bonds of sin release, cold and wavering faith increase,
Lamb of God, grant us thy peace.

The Lord says: I, even I, am the one to forgive your transgressions, and will not remember your sins. Go, and sin no more.

(please stand)

Hymn **Holy Lord**

Bread of Life, Bread of Life, Christ, by whom alone we live,
Bread that came to us from heaven, my poor soul can never thrive
unless Thou appease its craving; Lord, I hunger only after thee,
feed thou me, feed thou me.

Choir Anthem

Scripture Readings

Advent Meditation

Hymn #285 **Jesu, Rufe Mich**

Jesus call thou me, from the world to thee;
speed me ever, stay me never; Jesus call thou me.

Not Jerusalem - lowly Bethlehem.
'Twas that gave us Christ to save us; not Jerusalem.

Favored Bethlehem; honored is that name;
thence came Jesus to release us; favored Bethlehem,

Wondrous Child divine! Warm this heart of mine;
keep it burning for thee yearning, wondrous Child divine.

Do not me reject; let thy light reflect.
From me ever, blessed Savior, do not me reject.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Hymn #266 **Advent**

People in darkness are looking for light,
come, come, come Jesus Christ
People with blindness are longing for sight,
come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait,
are days for the advent of Love.

Prayer

(While singing the following, the congregation gives the right hand of fellowship.)

Hymn #284 **Warner**

Softly the night is sleeping on Bethlehem's peaceful hill.
Silent the shepherds watching the gentle flocks are still.
But hark! The wondrous music falls from the op'ning sky;
valley and cliff re-echo, "Glory to God on high!"
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God it rings again,
peace on the earth, goodwill to men.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE BREAD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

(please stand)

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Silent Prayer

By your divine presence, by the holy sacraments, by all the merits of your life, sufferings, death, and resurrection.

Bless and comfort us gracious Lord and God. Amen.

Hymn #297 **Stille Nacht**

Silent night, holy night. Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our king!
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE CUP

In the same way, after supper our Lord Jesus Christ took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

(please stand)

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Drink from this, all of you. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Silent Prayer

Christ, the Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Grant to us your peace. Amen.

Hymn #262 **Cassel**

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
from our fears and sins release us; O, in you our rest shall be,
Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death.

Until he comes.

(While singing the following, the congregation gives the right hand of fellowship.)

Hymn #282 **St. Louis**

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

The Lord bless and keep you; may the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord's countenance be lifted upon you and give you peace.

(sung) In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Postlude

Please leave this bulletin on the back table so we may reuse it next year.

The Advent Communion Service at Edgeboro Moravian Church

We welcome you to this special service of worship as we begin this most holy season of Advent. Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ into our hearts, our homes, and our lives. We hope this service helps you begin Advent prayerfully and expectantly.

In the Moravian Church, we practice an open Communion Table, meaning that if you partake of communion in your home congregation, you are welcome to do so here. Elements will be served to you in your pew, so please stand as your pew is served. Please hold your element until all have been served and we are directed to partake together.

We would invite you to come and experience our Christmas Putz, which tells the story of Jesus' birth with song, narration, and the lighting of figurines. It is an experience for the whole family. Public showings are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm, and Sunday afternoons from 12:00 – 3:00pm (Dec. 1-22). Appointments are available at other times for group showings. Call the church office at 610.866-8793 to arrange.

Our observance of the Advent season will continue each Sunday morning leading up to Christmas. We have worship services at 10:30am each Sunday. You can also worship online by visiting *edgeboromoravian.org*.

Participating in today's service are:

The Rev. Jodie Harney, Pastor

Ms. Gayle Justice, Organist & Choir Director