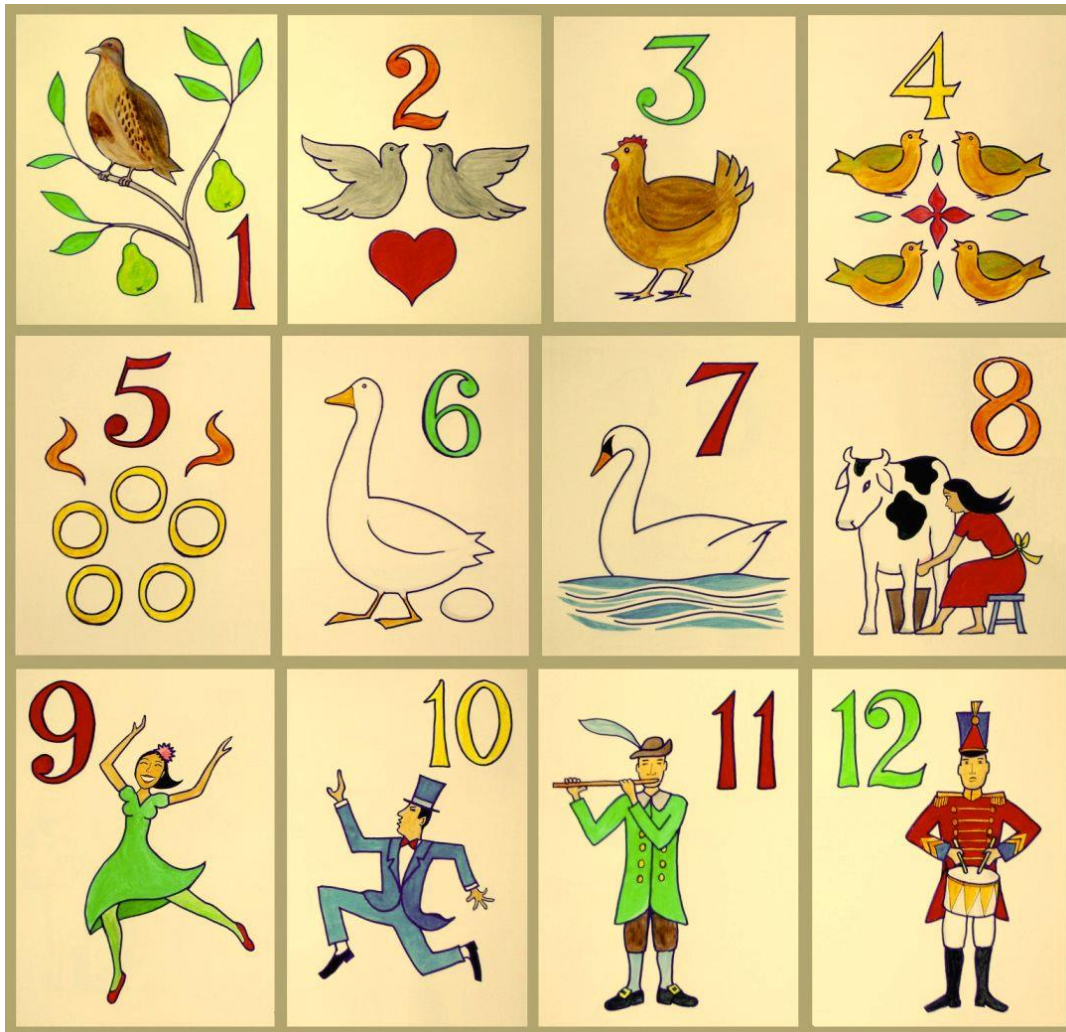


East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church  
Reedsville, Pennsylvania



December 29, 2024

11:15 am

Second Sunday of Christmas

Extending the Season of Joy

Reflecting on the New Year

## Congregation reads text in **BOLD**

\*If you are comfortable doing so, please stand.

### GATHERING

#### WELCOME:

Welcome on this fifth day of Christmas. As we step into the celebratory aftermath of Christmas, it's easy to overlook one of the most vibrant threads woven through our spiritual fabric: joy. The birth of Christ brings good news of great joy to all people, which is cause for celebration. On this Sunday after Christmas, we encourage you to be playful, to not take yourself too seriously, to laugh. For laughter is like hope—it has a ripple effect. It's one of many ways we live and share good news. Today is a more informal gathering to share the Christmas story in song - by singing favorite carols and perhaps hearing new ones; in story - recounting some of our most memorable Christmas experiences; and in prayer for people and places that yearn this New Year for the possibility of peace and joy.

#### ACTS of CONTEMPORARY APOSTLES

#### CENTERING THOUGHT

As refreshing and unexpected as snowflakes caught on our tongues, laughter doesn't just lighten our spirits; it invites us to see the world through a lens of divine playfulness. Happiness is fleeting, but joy is a deep-seated feeling that comes from something bigger than ourselves. Joy remains even in the face of adversity, reminding us of the hope and love that surrounds us at all times and in all circumstances. Joy is a sacred invitation to lessen our self-seriousness and remember that the God of all things often transforms our notions of what is holy.

#### SONGS and CAROLS: Congregational requests and musical offerings

#### CALL to CONFESSION:

When we let go of our self-importance and allow joy to cover our hearts with gladness and gratitude, we bring Christ back into the center of our lives.

#### PRAYER of CONFESSION:

In our cold world, joy is a sweater we can wrap ourselves in, offering comfort and protection against the elements. Help us this day make Christ the center of our lives. If we refuse to wear the joy that Christ extends us, what does that say about who we find most important in our lives? It centers ourselves, not Christ. Help us through this

season to remember Christ is center of our lives. The One who is compassionate and knows every sorrow also knows we are not meant to absorb every ache of the world. Help us in this New Year hold onto Christ as the center of our lives.

ASSURANCE of PARDON:

A posture of joy releases control and allows God to be God.

Yes, we must be present to the pain, but we are also invited to an invincible joy that is freely given: an invitation to forgiveness.

PEACE of CHRIST:

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to those here and beyond the walls of our Sanctuary. Beyond the days of this year into the New Year. Beyond pain into joy. The Peace of Christ be with You!!

**And also with You.**

SONGS and CAROLS: Congregational requests and musical offerings

THE WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION:

In scripture, joy and laughter are presented as responses to God's action and imperatives that invite us to celebrate the divine playfulness in creation. May these words today anchor this joy in our souls

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126:2-3  
Matthew 2:10

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

SONGS and CAROLS: Congregational requests and musical offerings

JOYS and CONCERNS:

This may include hearing and sharing stories of Christmases past and our experiences of challenge and joy.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

PRAYERS for the NEW YEAR

INVITATION to the OFFERING

PRAYER of DEDICATION

SENDING

SONGS and CAROLS: Congregational requests and musical offerings.

CHARGE

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

- Jan 5     **Epiphany**
- Jan 8     **Session Meeting**
- Jan 17    **Thailand Talk**, Friday Evening in basement
- Jan 26    **Panorama Reports Due**
- Feb 9     **Souper Bowl Sunday**
- Feb 23    **Congregational Meeting**

Sunday School: January 5 – January 26 Adult Sunday School will be discussing a variety of topics related to *Christianity and Ethical Consumption*. Discussions start at 10:15 (ish) and will be led by Laura. Please join us.

A pair of reading glasses was found following the Christmas Eve service. They are located in the church office.

**Blessing Box:** When you're shopping, please look for pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter, canned pasta, toilet paper, cereal, canned fruit, dried pasta, and spaghetti sauce. (No jars, please.) Of course, we continue to appreciate any other donations as well.

THANK YOU to Bill for providing music for on-the-spot carol requests and thank you for bringing that joy to Valley View too!

Credits:

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## East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church

Reedsville, Pennsylvania

[eastkishpres@gmail.com](mailto:eastkishpres@gmail.com)

Worship Leader: Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Musicians: Bill Peightel

Lector: Gail Wagner

Ushers: Tina Harpster and Carol Lockard