

Sunday Morning Worship  
December 13, 2020



3rd SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Third & Main Street, Tipp City, Ohio 45371  
Church Office: 14 West Walnut Street  
(937) 667-3110

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## INTRODUCTION

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Candle of Joy

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light, there is JOY, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Arr. Bottomley

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN #264 (vs. 1,3,4)**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

## **REETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray . . .

**C:** **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

**Chris Frame**

**R:** <sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24****Chris Frame**

R: <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #251 ( vs. 2 )**

C: **To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows. With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose. The ruthless you have cast aside, The lowly throned instead; the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel is: **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

P: <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Jeff Glawe

HYMN #249 ( vs. 1,3,4 )

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

### APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Response after each petition)*

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer . . .**

### LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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 and ever. Amen.**

### OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

### OFFERTORY #815 (verse 1)

C: **I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus**

*Refrain* **In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

## BLESSING

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

C: Amen.

**HYMN #430** (tune Darwall's 148th)

*Rejoice for Christ is King*

## DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is:  
"Serving Christ through serving others."**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*The King Shall Come*

Arr. A.K. Organ

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God  
by Mary Rogers in memory of Ron Rogers.*

*Prayer concerns for Zion's prayer chain may be submitted  
to the church office by calling 1 937 667-3110 or e-mail.*

**Total Attendance 12/5 & 12/6: 64**

Unified Giving: \$5,568.00

Building Fund: \$ 565.00

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**October 2020**

Unified Giving: \$16,148.06

Building Fund Giving: \$1,303.72

Expenses: \$18,094.29

Mortgage Payment: \$2,500.00

**Building Fund Balance as of October 31, 2020: \$28,722.82**

If you desire more detailed financial information there are ten copies of the balance sheet and income statement for the month of October 2020, on the table as you leave the fellowship hall. If you have any questions please bring them to our next Council meeting.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MISSION OF THE MONTH . . .** *The Good Samaritan Fund* assists individuals with utility bill help, rental assistance, gas, an emergency hotel stay, etc. No cash is given to the individual. We help in the form of a check to the a utility or rental company. A gas card only good for fuel is given when needed by an individual. For a hotel stay we work out an agreement with the person in charge. For food assistance we refer them to the Food Pantry. We do keep a list of individuals and their request in order to control repetitive requests.

**ANNUAL MEETING . . .** This years annual meeting will be conducted in various ways because of Covid-19. The final balloting results will be announced after the Sunday Church Service today.

### **ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD 2021**

There are estimate of giving cards next to the offering plate in the back of the fellowship hall. Make sure when you fill one out that you specify by week, month or year. Also, please include your name. Thank you.

### **FLOWER CHART**

The 2021 Flower Chart has been posted. Please write your name under “presented by”. You may also write a message to go in the bulletin (in memory of, in honor of, in celebration of . . . anniversary, birthday, graduation, special event etc.) on the chart. Altar flowers are ordered from **Always Blooming** and are \$40.00 for two vases. Color preference may also be requested. Payment can be put in your offering envelope (**please designate “altar flowers”**). Below is the address and phone number of the shop for your information.

**Always Blooming / owner: Jessica Echols**  
**108 E. Main Street**  
**Tipp City— 1 (937) 506-7460**

### **ALTAR FLOWERS for December:**

We have a new florist in Tipp City. The following individuals are signed up:

**Dec. 20**        Dean & Lilo Myers  
**Dec. 24**        Jeff & Jacque Mitchell  
**Dec. 27**        Earl & Cindy Moore

## **2021 WALL CALENDAR SALE**

This sale is to benefit the Zion Youth Group. We have sold them in the past and the price is \$7.00. Please watch for the calendars.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP & HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**12/24**—Services will be held at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Communion will be available at both services as well as candle lighting.

**12/25**—**Christmas Day: No worship—office closed—Merry Christmas!**

**12/31/20** office closed

**1/1/2021** Happy New Year! - office closed

**1/2/2021** 5:00 pm Worship

**1/3/2021** 10:00 am Worship & Communion