

December 20, 2020

LOVE



FOURTH SUNDAY

OF

Advent

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third & Main Street, Tipp City, Ohio 45371
Church Office: 14 West Walnut Street

1 (937) 667-3110

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INTRODUCTION

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Candle of Love

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light, there is LOVE. Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Watchman Tell Us of the Night

Arr. Keesecker

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 #263 (vs. 1-4)

Savior of the Nations, Come

GREETING / 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Kervyn Mach

R: ¹Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Kervyn Mach

R: ²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #251 (vs. 2) *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

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 **Luke 1:26-38**

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

P: ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"The story of the birth of Jesus, as told by the children and youth of Zion"

PARTICIPANTS:

Narrators: Jacob, Lisa, Kayly, Cole, Julie, Katelin, Anna, John, Hannah, Maddy

Isaiah: Elijah

Joseph: Zachery

Mary: Stephanie

Angel Gabriel: Mason

Angels: Addison, Ella, Olivia, Regan, Logan, Evelyn, Marissa, Daniel, Ally

Shepherd: Bryce

Sheep: Noah and Reese

Innkeeper: Alex

HYMN #265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

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 . . .**

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG #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.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior
and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy
Communion.)*

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 #267 (vs. 1,2,4)

Joy to the World

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

In Dulci Jubilo

Arr. Yeager

*Please follow the guidance of the leaders as you exit to
participate in Holy Communion.*

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God by Dean & Lilo Myers in celebration of their anniversary.

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 12/12 & 12/13: 79

Unified Giving: \$3,342.00

Building Fund: \$1,550.00

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

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 Budget was approved by the church with 96% voting for the budget. All new council members elected 100% of the church vote.

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.

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.

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:

Dec. 24 Jeff & Jacque Mitchell

Dec. 27 Earl & Cindy Moore

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

F.Y.I.

Pastor Glawe and Jackie will be out of the office on Dec. 28—Dec. 31

Staff

Pastor Jeff Glawe, *Pastor*; Terri Darrah, *Choir Director*;
Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jackie Glawe, *Christian Education Director*
Linda Short, *Office Manager*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*; Tina Putnam, *Sexton*