

Sunday Worship
December 24, 2023
4th Sunday in Advent

LOVE



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

(937) 667-3110

Website: www.ziontippcity.org
E-mail: office@ziontippcity.org

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a "prayer request" or a "praise report", please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

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."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Trio on People Look East

Arr: Wold

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Sleeth - Reprinted with One License

Light one candle for hope
One bright candle for hope
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,
He comes. He comes

Light one candle for peace
One bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to ev'ry heart,
He comes, He comes

Light one candle for joy.
One bright candle for joy.
Ev'ry nation will find salvation
In Bethl'em's baby boy.

Light one candle for love.
One bright candle for love.
He brings love to ev'ry heart,
He comes. He comes.
He brings love to ev'ry heart,
He comes. He comes.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God,

C: **You love justice and You hate wrongdoing.**

We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to You.

Make us glad to do Your will and to walk in Your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion 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

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 Israel, whom I commanded 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 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.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

R: ^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C: ⁴⁸for You, Lord, have looked with favor on Your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed;

R: ⁴⁹You, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name.

C: ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear You, from generation to generation.

R: ⁵¹You have shown strength with Your arm; and scattered the proud in their conceit,

C: ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

R: ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

C: ⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of Your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**
R: ⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

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 Red Hymnal #103

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. Save us as you promised;
we will trust your Word.**

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **Luke 1:26-38**

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

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 SERMON

SERMON Pastor Dale Schaefer

HYMN Red Hymnal # 257(v 5-8)

Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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 *(Response after each petition)*

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer . . .

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG #188

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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 God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Purple hymnal #901

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

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. Keep awake

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Arr: Weber

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Dan & Linda Holt in memory of loved ones.*

*Prayer concerns for Zion’s prayer chain may be submitted
using a ‘Prayer Request’ card from the pew rack.*

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Dale Schaefer
Reader	Mitch Tayse
Communion Assist	Kervyn Mach
Greeters	John & Jill Greer
Ushers	Judy & Ken Bailey

ATTENDANCE 12/16 & 17: 121

Sunday School: Adults 11

Unified Giving 12/16 & 17: \$7,475.26

Youth & Kids 14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the back of the church. They are in alphabetical order and can be taken home today. **Please do not use the envelopes UNTIL the first Sunday in January the 7th.** New numbers have been assigned to some of the boxes.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS: If you have not done so already, please fill out a membership form so we can update our records to have an accurate roster. There are blank forms on the table in the narthex, as well as a collection box for completed ones.

2024 FLOWER CHART: The chart to sign up for flowers next year is posted in the fellowship hallway. ***Please indicate what they are honoring and color choices.***

COUNCIL ELECTION: On Sunday, December 31st, there is a special congregational meeting after service. Council will present the vote on nominations for the vacant council seats. Saturday evening services will be given ballots and the results will be added to Sunday's vote.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: *ELCA GOOD GIFTS*

On the Christmas tree in the lounge area, you will find ornaments that have pictures of animals and other needed items for those in need throughout the world. For example, you may pay for ten chicks for \$10, honeybees for \$20, seeds and gardening tools for \$50, a clinic visit for a child for \$10. You can also donate any amount of money and the Women of Zion can put the money toward a more expensive animal - like a goat for \$50!

Please take an ornament and return it with a check made payable to Women of Zion. Please place your check in the basket on the table in the lounge.

Any questions contact Deb Keppel.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Sunday, December 24	Randall Residence Outreach 7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Monday, December 25	Office Closed	Merry Christmas
Tuesday, December 26	10:00 am 8:00 - 9:00 pm	Mission Quilts AA
Wednesday, December 27	No Choir	

Staff

Dale Schaefer, *Interim Pastor*; Bill Jones & Susie Gray, *Choir Directors*;
Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jessica Dorn, *Christian Education Director*;
Annette Calicoat, *Office Manager*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*;
Tina Putnam, *Sexton*

