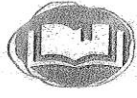


# First Sunday In Advent

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

**Preparation For Worship:** Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!  
Psalm 80:19

Opening Song

**Angels We Have Heard On High**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be; which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore, on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**See within a manger laid Jesus Lord of heav'n and earth  
Mary, Joseph lend your aid with us sing our Savior's birth.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Ministry Spotlight

Share

Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God the Father loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

People: The promised Messiah came! We celebrate the Advent of His coming. Emmanuel is God with us, and Christ will come again! He is the Prince of Peace, and Lord of all!  
God is good!

Pastor: All the time!

People: All the time!

Pastor: God is good!

People: Let us come to Him then with an honest heart to worship Him in spirit and truth.

## Confession and Absolution

Pastor: We confess our need of forgiveness, and that God's forgiveness is the gift that leads to newness of life. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, born in a manger, died on a cross, and risen from the grave: All to redeem us from sin, death, the devil, and our sinful self. As Paul wrote in Romans 3 "This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance God had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus." Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent and receive forgiveness, we join in the Apostle John's words:

People: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Forgive me of my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)

Pastor: Jesus laid down His life for our sins to be forgiven. He cleanses us, and calls us clean as we believe and receive His reconciliation. As you have confessed and believed, as a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and according to His Word, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Daily Text

The Lord will again comfort Zion.

Zechariah 1:17

Simeon was looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

Luke 2:25

Let us pray:

People: Make me like Simeon, Lord. What great patience he had; what little have I. Grant me the faith to wait and to see your presence in the world around me. Sharpen my eyes to see You in the valley of shadows. Open my ears to hear Your still, small voice even in the clamor of this season. Amen.

## Scripture Lessons Read

First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup> When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup> From of old no one has heard or perceived by the

ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup> You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? <sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup> But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup> Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

## Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.

Psalms 119:105, John 6:68

## Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

<sup>24</sup> “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup> “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup> “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup> Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

## **Apostles' Creed**

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Sermon Song**

### **Away In A Manger**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes;  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky;  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care;  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.**

Sermon/Watchword      Talk --- New, Knew, Next

Pr Knoll

Then They Will See "The Son Of Man Coming In Clouds" With Great Power And Glory

## **Offering Song**

### **Infant Holy Infant Lowly**

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.**

## Prayers of the Church      Pray

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with these **words...**

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: Amen.

## The **Lord's** Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: 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

## Benediction      Bless

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:(Sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Blessing: Child of God, we will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: our service begins!

## **Closing Song**

### **Go Tell It On The Mountain**

**Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**And lo! When they had seen it,  
They all bowed down and prayed;  
They traveled on together  
To where the Babe was laid.  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! Above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. If you are a visitor please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in joyful anticipation of the advent of our King from Diane Mueller.

The 2024 Altar Flower Chart is up in the hallway. You may sign up for one or two vases. The cost per vase is \$22.50 per vase or \$45.00 for both vases. Please indicate whether it is in honor or memory of an individual or special event.

**The December Newsletter** is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office and also on the desk in the library. *Please remember: We no longer have a way to find out if you have moved. Call the church office with new addresses and/or phone numbers.*

**The Mission of the Month for December** is blankets for Church World Services. See the article in the December newsletter. Use the Mission of the Month envelopes to support this mission.

**Poinsettias** are again available to decorate the church for the Christmas season. The cost is \$20. Please use the Mission Envelope to place your order and indicate who the plant is in honor/memory of.

**Food Pantry Volunteer Needs!** Help is needed collecting food at the Celebration of Lights! We have 5 different nights to staff this year, including Tuesday 12/19, which is a community free night, so very busy, as well as the nights from 12/28-12/31. Please contact Pr Ritchie about whatever you can do to help. In addition to these nights, we will need help during regular pantry hours to sort the food during the following weeks.

### **Bible Studies/Small Groups**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	G.I.F.T.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	Knowing and Experiencing God

### Worship at Zion

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	Advent Worship
Saturday	5:00pm	Chapel Service
Sunday	8:00am	Worship
	9:30am	G.I.F.T. Worship
	11:00am	Swahili-English Worship

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