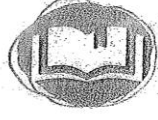


Second Sunday of Advent

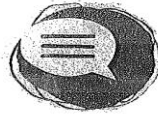
December 10th 2023 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. *Psalm 85:7*

Opening Song

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Oh come, oh come, great Lord of might, Who to Your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Oh come, strong Branch of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Your people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Oh come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

What god in heaven or on earth can perform deeds and mighty acts like Yours!
Deuteronomy 3:24

There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.
1 Corinthians 12:6

Let us pray:

People: **In the beginning, God, You made stars and planets, animals and plants, angels and people. Everything You created has Your fingerprints. In Jesus, You show us how we are imprinted in Your gracious work. Grant me daily Your Holy Spirit's energy to lift my hands to help, to heal. Use me to leave behind traces of Your mighty deeds. Amen.**

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and

the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Psalm

Psalm 85 :1-2, 8-13

¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. ⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. ¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. ¹² Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³ Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Second Lesson

2 Peter 3 :8-15a

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation,

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.

Psalm 119:105, John 6:68

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Song

Messiah

Long awaited precious promise - Son of God and Son of Man
Heaven's glory in a manger has come to us in Bethlehem oh

Messiah – Messiah - a baby born to save us all
Messiah – Messiah - on our knees we fall

All we long for all we needed - shining in a child's eyes
Hope forever death defeated because of this one only holy night

Messiah – Messiah - a baby born to save us all
Messiah – Messiah - on our knees we fall

O come let us adore Him - O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

O come let us adore Him - O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Long awaited precious promise - coming back again

Messiah – Messiah - a baby born to save us all
Messiah – Messiah - on our knees we fall

Long awaited precious promise - Son of God and Son of Man
Heaven's glory in a manger has come to us in Bethlehem oh

Messiah – Messiah - a baby born to save us all
Messiah – Messiah - on our knees we fall

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

Pr Knoll

He will feed His flock like a shepherd;
He will gather the lambs in His arms, and carry them in His bosom.

Offering Song

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary 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.**

Preface, Proper Preface and Sanctus

Pastor: The Lord be with You.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**People_(sung): Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes, in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words Of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take and eat, this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of Me."

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

Distribution Of Holy Communion

All who sincerely believe in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Communion – that the cup of blessing is the Communion of the blood of Christ and the bread is the Communion of the body of Christ, and sincerely believing that in receiving Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, salvation, and strength for the Christian life, come – partake of the Lord's Supper.

Communion Song

Prince Of Heaven

**Earth in shadow restlessly hold - labours waiting in silent hope
For the promise it longs to know what heaven holds**

**Then the angels in holy haste - lift their anthem Your Saviour lays
In a manger in humble form your King is born**

Hail the Prince of Heaven comes - angel choirs sound the call
For this babe wrapped in a cloth - is the incarnate Word of God
All the kingdom and its power - resting now in this child
Prince of Heaven - Jesus hope of the world

This means mercy in fullest form - loving kindness forever more
Son of David and Son of God - He is Christ the Lord

Hail the Prince of Heaven comes - angel choirs sound the call
For this babe wrapped in a cloth - is the incarnate Word of God
All the kingdom and its power - resting now in this child
Prince of Heaven - Jesus hope of the world

King of glory we gladly greet - born in wonder and majesty
Forever worthy the earth will sing - oh Prince of Heaven we worship Thee

King of glory we gladly greet - born in wonder and majesty
Forever worthy the earth will sing - oh Prince of Heaven we worship Thee

We can know Him - this Prince of Peace
In light of mercy - confess our sin
Lay our burdens at Jesus' feet and with gladness sing

Hail the Prince of Heaven comes - angel choirs sound the call
For this babe wrapped in a cloth - is the incarnate Word of God
All the kingdom and its power - resting now in this child
Prince of Heaven - Jesus hope of the world

Nunc Dimittis

Pastor: Now Lord, let your servants depart in peace, according to your Word. For our eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and will be, world without end. 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, in Jesus we bear fruit worthy of repentance.

Pastor: Our worship continues,
People: our service begins!

Closing Song **Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)**

Joy to the world the Lord is come - let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room - and heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing - and heaven and heaven and nature sing

**Joy to the world the Savior reigns - let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains - repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy - repeat repeat the sounding joy**

**Joy unspeakable joy - an overflowing well - no tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy - it rises in my soul - never lets me go**

**He rules the world with truth and grace - and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness - and wonders of His love
And wonders of His love - and wonders wonders of His love**

**Joy unspeakable joy - an overflowing well - no tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy - it rises in my soul - never lets me go**

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

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 honor of the birthday of Cheryl Lebakken from Dave Lebakken.

The Mission of the Month for December will be blankets. Church World Services provides blankets and other important articles to people around the world. Use the Mission of the Month envelopes to support this ministry. Approximately \$10 purchases a blanket that can be used in many ways.

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.*

Time is running out to purchase Jericho Road Ministries gift cards for your Christmas gift giving. There is an updated listing of the available cards. Purchasing the cards is a great way to support the ministry efforts of JRM. Please contact the JRM office with your order no later than December 12th.

Poinsettias to decorate the church are again available. The cost is \$20.00. Please use a Mission Envelope and list who or what the plant is in honor or memory of.

Food Pantry Volunteer Needs! Help is needed collecting food at the Celebration of Lights! We have 4 different nights to staff this year, 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 to sort the food during regular pantry hours.

Bible Studies/Small Groups

Wednesday 6:00pm G.I.F.T.

Thursday 6:00pm Knowing and Experiencing God

Worship at Zion

Wednesday 7:00pm 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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