

# Second Sunday In Advent

December 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 8:00am & 9:30am



Share

Read

Talk

Pray

Bless

**Preparation For Worship:** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! *Psalm 72:18-19*

## Opening Song

## Here I Am To Worship

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.  
So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,  
Glorious in heaven above. Humbly You came to the earth You created,  
All for love's sake became poor.  
So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
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You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.

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 lifts up those who are bowed down.

*Psalm 146:8*

Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.

*John 16:20*

Let us pray:

**People: My spirit rejoices in You, my Lord. Yet I am bowed down with life's burdens. Help me keep my eyes on You and Your promises. Even in disappointment, hurt, or pain, You are working things out for my good and Your glory. I trust You to lift me up and fill my heart with renewed joy. Amen.**

**Scripture Lessons**     *Read*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

The Psalm

Psalm 72

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! <sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! <sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! <sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! <sup>5</sup> May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! <sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! <sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! <sup>8</sup> May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! <sup>9</sup> May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! <sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! <sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! <sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. <sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. <sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight. <sup>15</sup> Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day! <sup>16</sup> May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field! <sup>17</sup> May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people

be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed! <sup>18</sup> Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. <sup>19</sup> Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! <sup>20</sup> The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

## The Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup> And again it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**Reader:** Please rise as you are able 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*

## The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to

yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

<sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**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**

#### **Only A Holy God**

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven  
Who else could make every king bow down  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles  
Only a Holy God**

**What other beauty demands such praises  
What other splendor outshines the sun  
What other majesty rules with justice  
Only a Holy God**

**Come and behold Him The One and the Only  
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God**

**What other glory consumes like fire  
What other power can raise the dead  
What other name remains undefeated  
Only a Holy God**

**Come and behold Him The One and the Only  
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God**

**Come and behold Him The One and the Only  
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God**

**Who else could rescue me from my failing  
Who else would offer His only Son  
Who else invites me to call Him Father  
Only a Holy God Only my Holy God**

**Come and behold Him The One and the Only  
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God**

**Come and behold Him The One and the Only  
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God**

**Sermon/Watchword**

*Talk --- New, Knew, Next*

Pr Farber

Jesus – Our Prince Of Peace

**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.  
Shalom. Shalom.

**People: Amen.**

**Blessing:** Child of God, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Pastor: Our worship continues,

**People: our service begins!**

**Closing Song**

**No Sweeter Name**

**No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus  
No sweeter name have I ever known  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus  
No sweeter name have I ever known  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus**

**You are the life to my heart and my soul  
You are the light to the darkness around me  
You are the hope to the hopeless and broken  
You are the only truth and the way**

**No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus  
No sweeter name have I ever known  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus  
No sweeter name have I ever known  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus**

**You are the life to my heart and my soul  
You are the light to the darkness around me  
You are the hope to the hopeless and broken  
You are the only truth and the way**

**You are the life to my heart and my soul  
You are the light to the darkness around me  
You are the hope to the hopeless and broken  
You are the only truth and the way**

**Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus**

**You are the life to my heart and my soul  
You are the light to the darkness around me  
You are the hope to the hopeless and broken  
You are the only truth and the way**

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**You are the life to my heart and my soul**

**You are the light to the darkness around me  
You are the hope to the hopeless and broken  
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**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 .

**A new local ministry** will be the recipient of our Mission of the Month gifts for December. Damascus Road Project, a nearly 100% specially trained volunteer run 501(c)3 non-profit organization is dedicated to fighting the evil of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. See the article in the December newsletter for more information.

**Jericho Road Ministries:** Can't figure out what to get that friend or family member for Christmas? We have the answer!! As in the past, JRM is making available to you, gift cards for your Christmas gift giving. There is an updated listing of the available cards and denominations on the shelf outside the church office. 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

**If you would like to support Jericho Road Ministries** at the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights, and donate food and hygiene donations for our food program, the dates that Zion will be at the gate on the E.A.A. grounds are: Thursday, 4 December, Friday, 5 December, Saturday, 6 December, Monday, 8 December, Friday, 19 December. The times are all 5:15pm to 9:00pm.

**Instead of poinsettias,** for this year's Christmas listing in memory of, or in honor of loved ones we encourage you to make a donation of any amount to our food program. Use the Mission Envelopes for this gift and indicate what you would like put in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day handout.

**The December Newsletter** is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office. *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.*

**Bible Studies at Zion**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	G.I.F.T.

**Worship at Zion**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Chapel Service ( <u>the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Saturday of each month</u> )
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Worship
	<b>9:30am</b>	G.I.F.T. Worship
	<b>11:30am</b>	Swahili-English Worship

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