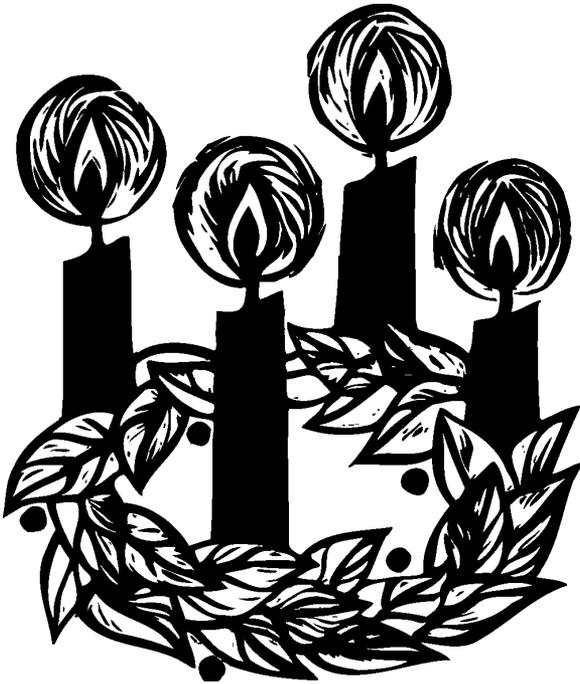


# Zion Lutheran Church

Oldwick, New Jersey



## Season of Advent

Communion Worship Service

# WELCOME!

We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. As a Lutheran congregation, we are liturgical, which means we follow an order of worship which is found in the booklet in the pews. The weekly bulletin contains the lessons, gospel and hymn numbers. The hymns are located in the red hymnal. Children's activity bulletins are available. Please let an usher know if you would like one. We hope you find our worship service meaningful.

Zion is a friendly, active and generous congregation.

- We support each other ... social activities, meals, rides, visits and prayer.
- We support our community ... housing the homeless, feeding the hungry locally as well as around the world, providing camp scholarships to needy children, and providing access to medication to those in need.
- We support the larger Lutheran church ... tithing (10% of our budget) to contribute toward the millions of dollars targeting world hunger, disaster relief, and the effort to end malaria. Through Lutheran Social Services, we touch 1 in every 50 Americans each year.

It is good to be gathered as God's people. If you would like more information about Zion or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Zion family, please talk to Pastor Kat.

## WORSHIPING IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Preparations for Christmas often stir up a combination of anticipation, anxiety, and excitement. The days are becoming colder and darker for us. Yet Advent is the season that most honestly names and acknowledges our human condition of longing, waiting, and restlessness. The four Sundays of Advent invite us to be mindful of the ways God comes to us, helping us to prepare the way for God's arrival in our midst. Advent puts before us this great mystery: we wait for what we already have. So it is that as we wait, we rejoice, for God is with us!

The color for Advent is blue, the color of the early morning sky, to symbolize hope. The Advent Wreath is a sign for us to mark our waiting in hopeful expectation. One candle is lit each Sunday in Advent.

# CELEBRATING CHILDREN AT ZION

## **TO THE PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST ...**

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. We claim the noise and activity of children as a sign of a healthy church. Children will always be welcome here!
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

## **TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH**

- The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.
- Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

# *Season of Advent*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*See bulletin*

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

*See bulletin*

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray...

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

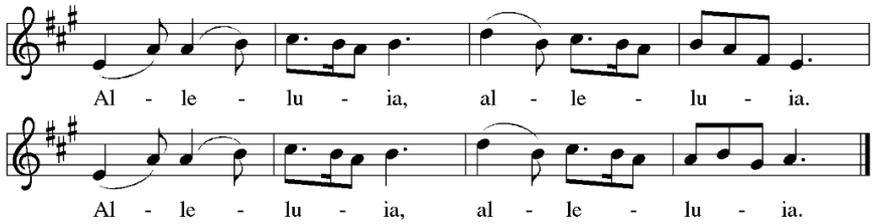
*See bulletin*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL**

*See bulletin*

The holy gospel according to ...  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*See bulletin*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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 INTERCESSION**

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord. ("Peace be with you.")*

*Please be seated.*

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### **OFFERTORY**



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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 to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Come now and receive these gifts of grace from God. Touch and take only elements for you, then return to your seat. For those worshiping at home, instructions for communing will be given by the pastor.*

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Most High God,  
you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power,  
form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and  
grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so  
that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** (11 a.m.)

*See bulletin*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**



*Connecting People with God's Grace*

**Pastor**

The Rev. Katherine Steinly

**Director of Youth and Family Ministry**

Rhonda Rossi

**Director of Music**

Rodney A. Briscoe