

# December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are glad to be gathered with you. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please ask an usher to answer any questions you may have.

The altar flowers are given by Rebecca Zerfas in memory of loved ones.

8:30 a.m.

Assisting Minister — Todd Rothermel

Acolyte — Alex Pepe

Greeters — Harold & Martha Wrede

Ushers — Judy Formalarie & Gerry Dehkes

11:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister — Leah Wintemute

Acolyte — Brooke Bredeson

Greeters — Christine Clark & Joanne Rupp

Ushers — John & Wendy Minerowicz

This morning's hymns:

8:30 a.m.

Entrance Hymn

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

ELW 264

Hymn of the Day

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

ELW 249

11:00 a.m.

Entrance Hymn

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

ELW 264

Hymn of the Day

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

ELW 249

Closing Hymn

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

ELW 254



Give to Zion  
from your phone!

Scan the QR code to  
be directed to Tithely's  
electronic giving site.



In a season when many of us labor to buy gifts for others, we invite you to take some time to unwrap the gifts that God gives to us. Set aside your busy preparations and take an hour with us midweek to rest

in God's presence and Word. Join Pastor Kat on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the CEB for a time of meditation, reflection, and thoughtful conversation.



Join us this evening between 6:30 and 8:30 for Advent Parish Night. Please contact Shellie Evers with any questions you may have.



**Pledging update:** Thank you to the 45 families who have made a pledge for 2022. The total amount pledged is \$243,200. This amount is \$13,600 more than pledges for

2021. **That is the good news.** There are still many member families who have not submitted their pledge. Zion's Finance committee is planning the 2022 budget for our ministries and will present a preliminary view of that at the December 12<sup>th</sup> special meeting. Pledge cards are available at the back of the church. You can place one in the offering plate today; you could email your pledge to [jrustwick@gmail.com](mailto:jrustwick@gmail.com), or you can phone your pledge to John Rustwick at 908-638-6339. Please respond today. Thank you.



Don't forget to sign up for our upcoming events — Lunch Bunch at Spain 92, the Blood Drive, and the Women of Zion Cookie Exchange. Please check your email for details and sign-up links.



On December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m., join Pastor Kat and Rhonda Rossi at the CEB for an Advent mini-

retreat, including contemplation and crafts! All are invited!

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

### **First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

### **Gospel: Luke 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

### **REMINDER — Alternative Giving and Giving Tree**



Today is the last day to purchase **Alternative Gifts** at the CEB. Please contact Linda Held with any questions.



Gifts for the **Giving Tree** must be dropped off at the CEB no later than today. Please contact Rebecca Melick with any questions.



### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

On Sunday, December 12th, there will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation at 11:00 a.m., immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect 2022 congregation council members and to receive a preview of the 2022 annual budget. No other business may be conducted at this meeting.

## The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

### Second Week of Advent

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,

let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (11 a.m.)

*"Come, Light of Hope"*

arr. Anna Laura Page

"O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here.

We will rejoice to see our Savior; we'll sing His praises evermore.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and bring Your hope to Israel, and ransom captive Israel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel. Your people yearn to see Your light.

O come, O come, on earth to dwell, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

We will rejoice to see our Savior, we'll sing His praise forevermore.

O come, O come, Emmanuel. Your people yearn to see Your light.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, the Light of Hope for Israel.