

Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2022

Hold Onto Your Hats it's Christmas! – Children's Christmas Program

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

**Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.**

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✠ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

L: God you call us to live into a life of immeasurable Joy.

C: We tell ourselves that what we've done keeps us from experiencing the fullness of that life.

L: Regardless, You still call us into a life of immeasurable joy.

C: The light of your love shines bright, even when we know what we know about ourselves.

L: As we light our third Advent Candle,

ALL: We look with JOY towards what you call us to be, declaring from the beginning what is to come - the fullness of life in you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

In worship, the message of the immeasurable joy of this Advent and Christmas season will be presented in the form of our Children’s Christmas Program – Hold On To Your Hat it’s Christmas!

Our Children have been working hard to put together this wonderful program full of the joy and excitement of the Advent/Christmas Season and the joy that the characters in the story must have felt.

The angels are in charge of delivering boxes of hats to everyone in the Christmas story and the hats have arrived just in time! Each hat box includes a note: “Hold on to your hat, and remember that God is always with you.”

. . . Mary and Joseph receive their hats in a barn in Bethlehem and are reminded that God will be with them as a new family.

. . . The shepherds

receive practical hats for their work in the fields and are reminded that God is always with them – which is quite a promise, because the sheep really keep them moving!

. . . The wisemen know that God has been with them in their search to find the savior and they trust that God will continue to be with them as they finish their journey. Everyone will be surprised by what the wisemen do with their hats!

This Christmas, you are invited to hold on to your hats and celebrate Jesus – God’s promise to always be with us.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Song of the Day

“Joy to the World”

#267

The 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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict (*regions in turmoil may be named*). Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss (*especially*). Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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

Communion

Prayer

Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.

Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

God the eternal Word,

who dwells with us in Jesus,

and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!

And all of Good Shepherd said, **AMEN!**

December Financial Snapshot

Through December 7

Total Revenue **\$4,500**

Total Expenses **\$17,003**

-\$2,364 Difference

Rest of December
Financial Forecast

\$35,000 Offering Goal
1 extra pay period



Join us as we make our way through the season of Advent. Our Advent Theme this year is: **Immeasurable**. Going off of Isaiah 46:10 and the promise that God is “declaring the ending from the beginning,” we will wonder as we wander together what it means that from the beginning, we are promised immeasurable **HOPE – PEACE – JOY – LOVE** in the end. This is Good News! Come and celebrate the season of Advent at Good Shepherd.

Don't forget to get your year end giving in!

Please take note that the church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26; Friday, Dec. 30; and Monday, Jan. 2. Any donations received in the mail by Dec. 30 will be credited to your giving page.



Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m.

The angels are in charge of delivering hats to everyone in the Christmas story and the hats have arrived just in time. Mary and Joseph get hats. The Shepherds, the Wise Men -- even the sheep get hats! This year you are invited to hold on to your hat and celebrate Jesus - God's promise to always be with us.



French Toast Fellowship Brunch

Following the Shepherd's Kids Christmas Program during worship on December 11, join your church family for a fellowship brunch of French Toast Bakes, fruit, coffee, and juice. This is a free meal, but donations are always appreciated!

The Choirs of Good Shepherd will be sharing on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 9 a.m.

Be sure to invite your friends to hear some beautiful music as we continue to prepare our hearts for Christmas.



It's Culver's night for Roosevelt Elementary

Please join Roosevelt families and staff at the Folsom Street Culver's from 4-7 p.m. The Roosevelt PTA will receive 10% of all sales. These funds will go into their general fund to help support all the programs the PTA offers.



Dec. 13, 4-7 p.m. Culvers on Folsom St.