

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500



December 12, 2021 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 AM - Worship

also on - www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran

Organ Prelude - "Joy to the World" - arr. David Lanz

**Welcome - Announcements - Welcome our Guest Preacher,
Rev. John Berntsen**

Introduction to Worship

Lighting the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" ... **ELW 247** vs. 3

Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with your favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

Opening Hymn - ELW #267 - "Joy to the World"

(Stand if you are able)

Greeting

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

PEOPLE: **AND ALSO WITH YOU**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

(Please be Seated)

First Reading- Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;

you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the Lord.

Lector: **The Word of the Lord.**

PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6 (read responsively)

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD
is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD,
call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD
among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

**⁵Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading- Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector: **The Word of the Lord**

PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)

(sung) *"O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord."*

Pastor: **The holy gospel according to Luke:**

PEOPLE: **GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

The Holy Gospel - Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Pastor: **The gospel of the Lord.**

PEOPLE: **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

(Be seated after the gospel)

Message/ Sermon - Rev. John Berntsen

Hymn of the Day - ELW #279 - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

NICENE' CREED (Please stand , if able)

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy
catholic 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.

Prayers and Intercessions:

Pastor: Hear us, O God.

People: YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Peace

Blessing (Pastor) : 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- ELW #248 - "People Look East"

(Stand if you are able)

Dismissal:

Pastor: Go in peace. Christ is near PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Piano Postlude - "Partita on People Look East" - Arr. Gordon Young

Helping in Worship

Preacher	- John Berntsen
Organist/Choir Director	- Carolyn Williams
Acolyte	- Samantha Mueller
Altar Guild	- Mark Harwick and Val McGinn
Lector	- Bob Starling
Usher	- Joe Hlavaty
Council Counting Team	- Scott Gaun and Mark Harwick
Technology	- Ken Anderson
Office Secretary	- Jessica Mette
Custodian	- Dianna Streletz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- TODAY, Sunday, December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent
- Next Sunday, December 19 - Forth Sunday of Advent
with Rev. James Heckman
- The Adult Bible study will not be meeting during December. We will resume on Thursday Jan. 6, 2022. We are meeting from 2:00-4:00 at the home of Don Seipt and Kathy Hlavaty. We are currently studying Corinthians and sharing in leading each session. Car pooling from the church is available.
- DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS - DECEMBER 14th- Victoria Phillips, Benjamin Williams; DECEMBER 19TH- Bob Starling

- DECEMBER BAPTISMS - DECEMBER 15th - Lee Ann Kressman;
DECEMBER 18th - Ken Anderson
- DECEMBER “OUTREACH OFFERINGS” go to AHUB - support code blue effort for our community
- CHRISTMAS EVE Service: December 24, 7 p.m., Rev. Marcia Bell - guest pastor

Please lift up in prayer the following ...

For Healing of those in our Congregation: Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Norma Fox; Virginia Hager; Betty and George Kreitz; Cheryl Mesko; Dot Peterman; Silas Rodenbach; Hal Taylor; Carolyn Williams and Joanne & Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family: Harry & Terry Bachart; Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Deb Carmichael; Bill Corrigan; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Gabriella Froehlich; Ken Garey; Candie Gimbar; Clarence Hoover Jr.; Kathy J.; George & Lois James; Virginia Johnson; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Lauren Keebler; Martine King; Priscilla Kinter; Chelsea Marley; Clint O’Connor; Sue Odor; Lisa Pezzino; Donnie Pyne; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Ron Steele; Steven Streletz; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Rocco Vonelli; Linda Wilson; and Jesse.

For those who are Homebound: Cleo and Ken Eck; Phyllis Lanshe; and Jayne Miller.

For the Grieving: The families of Brian Ashmore, Jr; and Dean Litzenberger

For those in Health Care: Including Sara Aquino, Debbie Angstadt; Kendell Beerer, Mary Crouse, Sara Deal Den Herder, Mary Erceg; Faye Gadwell; Tanya Naska; Kristi Lee Reiman; and Sharron Streletz.

Essential postal workers: Andrea Fox and Dawn Margeson.