

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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December 11, 2022 - Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 AM - Communion Service/ WOV Setting 5 - Bread of Life

You can find the live stream can at the following locations:

www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Introduction to Worship

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.

Prelude

Welcome - Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (*Stand if you are able*)

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

C: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P: 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.

P: God of new beginnings,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn – “Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn” WOV #633 vs. 1,2

Apostolic Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. . . 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

L: The First Reading is from the thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah

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 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.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Lighting the Third Candle of the Advent Wreath

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"ELW # 257 vs. 3

Place figures in Manger

Blessing Prayer

Landon: Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

C: Amen.

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"ELW # 257 vs. 7

Lighting of the 3rd Candle

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

L: The Second Reading is from the fifth chapter of Romans.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord **C: THANKS BE TO GOD**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)..... WOV pg. 31

C: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

P: 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

(Be seated after the gospel)

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn" WOV 633 vs. 3,4

The Nicene Creed

**C: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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:

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

A brief silence.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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, help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offertory Choir Anthem – “Come, My Light” - Anne Krentz Organ

Presentation of the Gifts WOV pg. 34

Offertory: “Let the Vineyards” WOV pg. 35

Offertory Prayer

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving WOV pg. 36

P: The Lord be with you.	C: AND ALSO WITH YOU
P: Lift up your hearts.	C: WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	C: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

Preface

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” WOV pg. 36

Eucharistic Prayer (said by Pastor)

The Lord’s Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C: 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

“Lamb of God” WOV pg. 39

Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow ushers)

Hymn during Distribution- “Hark the Glad Sound” ELW 239

Communion Table Blessing (said by Pastor after all have communed)

“Thankful Hearts” WOV pg. 40

Prayer after Communion (said by Pastor)

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: “People Look East” WOV 626

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Helping in Worship

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist/Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Acolyte	Landon Helfrich
Altar	Linda Sauter & Mark Harwick
Lector	Karen Beerer
Greeters	TBD
Communion Usher	Ben Naska
Council Counting Team	Cathy Mueller & Kathy Hlavaty
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK ACTIVITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sunday December 11th	10:30am	THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sunday, December 11 th	after worship	WELCA Cover Dish Luncheon
Sunday December 11 th	1:00pm	Live Nativity rehearsal
Monday, December 12 th	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Saturday, December 17 th	9:00 am	Decorating of Sanctuary
Saturday December 17	5:00pm 7:00pm	Live Nativity

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sunday, December 18th	10:30am	THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sunday, December 18 th	Following worship	Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins
Sunday, December 18 th	4:00 PM	Blue Christmas Service @ St. Peter's, Riegelsville
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH	7:00 PM	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH	10:30am	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS DAY - Service of Lessons and Carols

OFFICE CLOSED THE WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS.

BAPTISMS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES		BAPTISMS
				11	Alex Crouse
14	Victoria Phillipps, Benjamin Williams			15	Lee Ann Kressman

DECEMBER “OUTREACH OFFERINGS” are designated for the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for Food Basket donations. You can either buy the supplies for the basket or Helen Dungan can shop for you.

The Food Basket is donated by Helen Dungan in memory of Mary Ellen Jonczyk and Jane Fisher

Reverse Calendar Challenge!



We are 11 days into our Reverse Advent Calendar challenge. (Instead of taking something OUT of the calendar each day, we're putting a nonperishable food item IN a box each day!)

The challenge ends on January 8 when we find out which church in the PALM Ministry Group has collected the most. The winning church will enjoy a free dinner cooked and served by the other churches in the group.

Please lift up in prayer the following ...



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Frank Erceg; Virginia Hager; Betty and George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; Donnie Pyne; and Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family: Wanda Altemose; Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Michael Barats; Anthony Beck; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Emma Brown; Ollie Butler; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie Courtney; Miriam Deal; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Virginia Johnson; Lauren Keebler; Martine King; Jane Litzenberger; Chelsea Marley; Lenny Marin; Jim McAnally; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Debra Patten; Lisa Pezzino; Jennifer Phelps; Dr. Larry Rakowski; Connie Rugen; Linda Sauter; Lani Schlegel; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Saxton Vargo; Nancy Vetter; Linda Wilson, and Henry Wong.

For those who are Homebound: Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; and Hal Taylor.

For the grieving: Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Lisa Pezzino; Jeffrey Tapler; Donald Seipt

Christmas Flowers

Last chance to order Poinsettias to decorate our chancel for Christmas. Orders will be taken until December 12. You can place your check and completed order form in Victoria Phillipps mailbox located in the back of the church, or you can order by mail. Send your check and completed order form to: Victoria Phillipps, 100 Meadows Lane, Riegelsville, PA 18077. Make checks payable to Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham. Please make sure to include your Name and phone number in the space provided below. The flowers will be in the church on the 18th and can be taken home after Xmas Eve service. Any questions, please contact Victoria at 610-346-1996

Name:			Phone Number:	
Quantity	Plant Description	Price	Total Amount	In Honor/In Memory of
	Red Poinsettia	\$8.00		
	White Poinsettia	\$8.00		
	Grand Total			

