

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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

Reverend James Heckman, Bridge Pastor
267-664-3160/ bridgepastor.ELD@gmail.com



December 4, 2022 - Second Sunday in Advent

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

Live stream can be accessed at the following locations:

www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Introduction to Worship

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

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 - "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

L: The First Reading is from the eleventh chapter of Isaiah

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Lighting the First Candle of the Advent Wreath

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"ELW # 257 vs. 2

Place figures in Manger

Blessing Prayer

Leo G.: 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. 6

Lighting of the 2nd Candle

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

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

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)

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

The Holy Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

P: ¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to

come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume 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. ¹⁰Even now the ax 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.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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 - *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*ELW #264 vs 1,4

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: God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. 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: Prepare Ye the Way - Hal Hopson

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- “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”.....ELW #272

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

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: “All the Earth is Hopeful” WOV #629 vs. 1,2,3

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Helping in Worship

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Preacher | - Rev. James Heckman |
| Organist/Choir Director | - Carolyn Williams |
| Acolyte | - Leo Grzelkowski |
| Altar | - Linda Sauter & Mark Harwick |
| Lector | - Bob Starling |
| Greeters | - Frank & Joan Mammana |
| Communion Usher | - Ben Naska |
| Council Counting Team | - Becky Praster & Val Mc Ginn |
| Administration & Technology | - Ken Anderson |
| Custodian | - Dianna Streletz |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK ACTIVITIES

- **Sunday, December 4th - 10:30 am - THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
- Sunday, Dec. 4th - Annual budget meeting after worship.
- Sunday, Dec. 4th - Worship & Music Committee Meeting - following the Budget mtg.
- Saturday, Dec 10th - 9:00 AM - Christmas tree decorating in the sanctuary

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Sunday December 11th - 10:30 am - THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
- Sunday, Dec. 11th - Welca Cover Dish Luncheon - right after worship
- Sunday December 11th - 1:00 PM - Live Nativity rehearsal
- Monday, Dec. 12th - 7:00 PM - Council Meeting
- Saturday, Dec. 17th 9:00 AM - Decorating of Sanctuary
- Saturday December 17 - 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM -Live Nativity
- **Sunday, December 18th - 10:30 AM - THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
- Sunday, Dec. 18th - Following worship - Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins
- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - 7:00 PM -THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD/CHRISTMAS EVE**
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH -THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD/CHRISTMAS DAY**
 - **10:30 AM - Service of Lessons and Carols**
- **OFFICE CLOSED THE WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS.**

BAPTISMS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

- **DECEMBER BAPTISMS** - December 8 - Brendan Snyder, December 9 - Lois Altemose, December 10 - Jocelyn Frey, Hunter Frey
- **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS** - None this week

- DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES - December 8 - Dianna & Peter Streletz (31)

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

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; Donald Seipt; 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; 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 Saunders; Lani Schlegel; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; 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

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Christmas Flowers

It is time 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

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