Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610-346-8500

<u>durhamlutheran.org</u>

Rev. James Heckman, Bridge Pastor

December 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent



Introduction to Worship

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

You can find the live stream at the following locations: <u>www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran</u>

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Prelude: An Advent Introit - Tom Birchwood

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- C: Amen.
- P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: Everlasting God,
- C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and selfcenteredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.
- P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.
- C: Amen.
- P: Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: Amen.



Opening Hymn: ELW 246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889



- 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.
- Kyrie



Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927 Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer of the Day

- L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.
- L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

L: A reading from Isaiah, the sixty-fourth chapter.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.



Lighting the First Candle of the Advent Wreath

Lighting of 1st Candle

Blessing Prayer

The Roberts family: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: Amen.

Place figures in Manger

Choir: Come, Child of Light - Lloyd Larsen

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the first chapter:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community

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Gospel Acclamation

(Please stand if you are able)



The Gospel – Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark. C: Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you. O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 244



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Nicene Creed

- 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 OF INTERCESSION

P: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

P: Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,

C: Your mercy is great.

- P: Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
- C: Your mercy is great.
- P: Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief (especially those we name aloud, or in our hearts). Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,
- C: Your mercy is great.

- P: Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,
- C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- P: You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence, Merciful God,
- C: Your mercy is great.
- P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
- C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

- P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

OFFERING



Choir Anthem: Prepare Ye the Way - arr. Hal H. Hopson

What Feast of Love - ELW 487 What Feast of Love of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en? What feast of love is 1 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en? 2 What wine of love of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en? is 3 of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift What food giv - en? is What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en? This. this bread come down from is Christ the king, the heav - en. This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en. This, this Christ the king, the sweet - est is wine of heav - en. Oh. sing! How sweet the taste and see and man giv - en! na sing! The Word of God Oh, see and hear and is giv - en! sing! The Son of God Oh, taste and and is giv - en! see

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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Offering Prayer

- P: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

- 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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

Eucharistic Prayer (said by Pastor)

- P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
- 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: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.



Lamb of God

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948 Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Hymn during Communion: ELW 261

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer after Communion

- P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit 🕂 remain upon you now and forever.

.C: Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 260

The King Shall Come



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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DISMISSAL

- P: Go in peace. Keep awake.
- C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Savior of the Nations, Come! - Wayne L. Wold

ANNOUNCEMENTS							
	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES		BAPTISMS		
4					Rowan Froehlich		
6			Bethany & Joshua Michl (6)		Brian Ashmore Sr.		
8			Dianna & Peter Streletz (32)		Brendan Snyder		
9	1				Lois Altemose		
		Т	HIS WEEK'S ACT	TIVITIES	<u>.</u>		
Sunday, December 3		10:00 AM		Communion Worship			
First Sunday in Advent				Advent family wreathmaking event			
Monday, December 4		•		Palm Meeting @ St. Luke's, Ferndale			
	, December 5						
	sday, December 6	10:00 AM - 11:00 PM		Choir rehearsal			
Weathestady, December 0		11:00 AM - 1:00 PM		Office Hours			
		11:00 AM - 11:15 PM		Care -A-Lot Visit			
		12:00 PM		Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
Thursda	iy, December 7	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM		Office hours			
		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM		Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's			
		<u> </u>	UPCOMING ACT	IVITIES			
Sunday	, December 10	10:0	0 AM	Communio	n Worship		
Second Sunday in Advent		After Worship		Congregati	onal Meeting – 2024		
				Budget Approval			
		1:00 PM		Live Nativity rehearsal			
		5:00	– 7:00 PM	Confirmatio	on Class @ Durham		
Monday	, December 11	7:00	PM	Council Me	eting		
Wednes	Monday, December 117:00 PMWednesday, December 1310:00 AM - 1:00		0 AM - 1:00 PM	Office Hours			
		Dianna & Peter Street THIS WEEK'S ACTIV 10:00 AM C After Worship A 7:00 PM F 10:00 AM C 10:00 AM C 10:00 AM C 10:00 AM F 10:00 AM F 10:00 AM C 11:00 AM C 11:00 AM C 12:00 PM C 10:00 AM 1:00 PM C 1:00 PM C C 1:00 PM C C 1:00 PM C C 1:00 AM 1:00 PM C 1:00 AM<	Care -A-Lot Visit				
		12:00 PM		Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
		7:00	PM		mmittee meeting		
Thursday, December 14		10:00 AM - 11:00 PM		Choir rehearsal			
		11:00 AM - 1:00 PM		Office hours			
					Study @ Hlavaty's		
Saturday, December 16				Decorate church for Christmas.			
					Nativity @ Durham		
				Communion Worship			
				liday Service & fellowship			
Wednesday, December 20		10:00 AM - 11:00 PM		Choir rehearsal			
		11:00 AM - 1:00 PM		Office Hours			
		11:0	0 AM - 11:15 PM	Care -A-Lot	Visit		

	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim	
Thursday, December 21	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office hours	
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's	



December Outreach - The December envelope will go to the AHUB homeless shelter in Quakertown.



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Esther Crouse; Frank Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Leon Errico; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran;

Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Cindy Gilligan; Candie Gimbar; Josephine Gimelson & family; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Sue Kiry; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; The Schutt Family; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Kelly Walsh; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Rev. Dennis Durasoff

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org

Helping in worship					
Preacher	Rev. James Heckman				
Choir Director / Organist	Carolyn Williams				
Greeter(s)					
Altar Guild	Barb Naska, Mark Harwick,				
	Suzanne Mauer				
Acolyte	Nate Roberts				
Lector	Becky Praster				
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick				
Council Counting Team	Bea von Watzdorf & Mark Harwick				
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson				
Custodian	Dianna Streletz				

Holping in Worshin

Christmas Flowers

It is time to order Poinsettias to decorate our Chancel for Christmas. Orders will be taken until December 11. 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, phone number and in honor of or in memory of in the space provided below. The flowers will be in the church on the 24th 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				

