

Messiah Lutheran Church

1796-15 Avenue East

Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

Website: www.messiahluthpa.ca

Facebook page and YouTube channel: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](#)

Pastor Fran Schmidt

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Musician:

Colleen Bowen

Readers:

Tracy Feher / Art Feher

Jana Wilkie / Dasen Wilkie

Lighting of the

3rd Advent Candle:

Tracy Feher

PowerPoint:

Waldner Family

Camera:

Merv Bender

The Messiah office hours will continue to be Tuesday – Friday from 10am to 4pm church-related activity – primarily dropping off or picking up items. Please note that the use of hand sanitizer and wearing of masks is required for anyone entering the office.

Donna will be away on holidays starting December 18 (4pm) and back in the office Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Worship for Sunday, December 13, 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent – Service of Readings and Advent Carols

Please Note: Worship will continue on a virtual basis, in-person worship will not take place over the next period of time. Council will review the situation prior to the end of January to determine if/when in-person worship may resume. To read more about this decision, please see the full announcement in the December newsletter.

Online Worship Services continue live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. You can view this live by going to the Messiah Lutheran Church Prince Albert YouTube page and look for “live” feed. If there are technical issues, the recorded service will be available on Messiah Facebook page and Website by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns: We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.

- **If you would like to donate a Poinsettia over the Advent Season; please drop your plant off to the office no later than Monday, December 21 by 12noon - Pastor Fran will be in the office during this time. If you are donating a Poinsettia in memory of someone, please let the office know by Wednesday, December 16.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All information can be found in the December Newsletter if you are requiring more information.

- **Confirmation** by Zoom on Sunday, December 13 @ 7:00 p.m. Classes will resume on January 10, 2021.
- The **Lectionary Bible Study** is only available as an online option now (Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.) Our last study is December 16, then we will resume on January 6th. Please call the Messiah office or text / email Pastor Fran for the link.
- **December 20 @ 7pm by Zoom: Virtual Christmas Caroling and Fellowship:** Have your hot cocoa ready and a favorite ornament/story to share!
- **December 21 @ 7pm – Longest Night Meditative Service on our YouTube channel.**
- **Memorial Tree 2020** – If you would like to have a card and bookmark hung on the Memorial Tree in memory of a loved one, please contact the Messiah office and provide details. We will write the name of your loved one and your message on a card and hang it on the Memorial Tree in the Sanctuary. You can call or email to messiah@sasktel.net
- **Mitten, Hat and Scarf Collection** – If you have mittens, hats, or scarves you would like to donate for local children and adults, MLW will be collecting these items during the month of December. A box to collect these items is located in the entrance by the Messiah office. Please, **sanitize your hands** as you enter the Church and **wear a mask** as per the Provincial COVID-19 Guidelines when dropping off items.
- **Christmas Hampers for Families in Saskatchewan Rivers Schools:** Again this year, Messiah Lutheran Church will be donating Christmas Food Hampers to families of children attending Saskatchewan Rivers Schools. We are accepting donations of food items to fill five hampers. The donation can be a monetary gift or a donation of food items.

Your gifts of time, talent and resources are greatly appreciated and keep Messiah a vibrant ministry of caring, worship, fellowship, and Christian education. Thank you for all of your contributions! Financial gifts can be given a number of ways through pre-authorized payments, e-transfer, Canada Helps, mail drop off at the office mailbox, or pick up from your home – call the office for details.



Worship for Sunday, December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent – Service of Readings and Advent Carols

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Today we light the candle of joy.

This year we have prayed for joy.

This year we have prayed in joy:

That water became cleaner and the air fresher.

That new life has begun.

That in dark we re-discovered what is important.

Today we pray with you.

We know God is with us in moments of joy and sadness.

We know God is with us.

(Three candles are lit.)

Written by Rev. Dr. Elaine Boone, used with permission.

HYMN: ELW# 262 - "Wait for the Lord" 2X

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray,

Gracious God, Creation awaits the coming of your son in wonder. Abide with us in our anticipation and

longing. And help us to embrace your mystery. Teach us to open our hearts to you in preparation for new life.

Help us to look for you, like the long streaks of light across an early dawn sea. And guide us always toward the knowledge and love of you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Written by Deacon Sherry Coman.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

A reading from 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL SINGING: ELW# 256 - "Comfort, comfort, now my people" (vs. 1 & 3)

SECOND READING: Isaiah 9: 2 - 7

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL SINGING: ELW # 250 - "Blessed be the God of Israel" vs. 1

THIRD READING: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will
 call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.
⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

FOURTH READING: MATTHEW 1: 18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him

Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Garry Miller & Isaiah Dawg

REFLECTION: Pastor Fran

CAROL SINGING: ELW #265 - “*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*” (vs. 1 & 4)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God; **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: **everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We share a sign of that peace.

PRAYER

God strengthens us for the journey.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need, praying Hear us, O God and responding **Your mercy is great.**

...

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray....

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW #253 - "He Came Down that We May Have Love" vs. 1 & 2

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.