

Messiah Lutheran Church
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Messiah office hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am - 2 pm

Worship for Sunday, December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent, "Saviour of Nations come: The World prepares for Christ's Birth"

Sunday Worship Service: In person and live broadcast on-line, begins at 10:30am. The wearing of masks is mandatory, and Covid vaccinations and hand sanitizing are encouraged. Offering is collected as you enter the Sanctuary. The service is taped for later viewing on the Messiah website.

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.



We offer our condolences, thoughts and prayers to Morris and Angeline Hesje, and to the Hesje family, whose brother, Brian Hesje passed away on December 5. Funeral arrangements are pending.

This Week:

Today: Sunday School at 11:45am, right after Worship Service on Zoom (call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran for the link).
Confirmation tonight @ 7pm on Zoom.

Wednesday: Bible study at 7pm – Lectionary Bible Study continues in a hybrid format (both in-person and on Zoom). For more info ask Pastor Fran. This is the last Bible Study until January.

Sunday, December 19: Youth Christmas Party on Zoom at 7pm



Canadian Lutheran World Relief: The *Gifts from the Heart* catalogue provides meaningful and tangible gifts that will share God's love with the world. There is something to inspire and delight your friends and family members. No matter which gift you choose, the gifts you give are saving and changing lives. Please give a *Gift from the Heart* today. View the catalogue online, pick up a copy at Messiah or contact CLWR at 1.800.661.2597.



Mitten Tree: Two boxes have been set up for the "mitten tree" collection of mitts, toques, scarfs and gloves, in the Narthex and in the entry by the office. These articles are given to a community school for children without these necessities.

Memorial Christmas Tree: REMEMBERING: During Advent, decorations are provided to hang on the Memorial Christmas Tree. You can also write the names of those you wish to remember on the attached card. After Christmas, the decorations will be available to take home. If you will not be into Messiah and would like a decoration prepared, please contact the office with your information.

Food Bank Donations: Throughout Advent, we ask that you bring food and other items to church to be donated to the Food Bank. As well as Sunday mornings, these items can be dropped off at Messiah during office hours. A handout with food suggestions can be picked up in the Narthex.

Poinsettias for Christmas: If you would like to donate a Poinsettia for the Christmas services; please bring your plant off to the office no later than 12 noon, Wednesday, December 22. If you are donating it in memory of someone, please phone (leave a message) or email the Messiah office by noon, December 22.

Kinasao Update: For a variety of reasons, the Kinasao Retreat Centre Renovation Project start will be delayed until after our 2022 camping season. The Renovation Committee and the Board of Directors believe that this necessary postponement will give us the best chance to complete our project safely, efficiently and cost-effectively, while minimizing disruptions to our summer ministry programming. If you haven't yet pledged to the project, we ask you to consider doing so now. This is a generational, community project, that relies on all hands joining together to ensure our facilities can provide another 80 years of ministry! Pledge forms are available by contacting Kinasao at 306.982.3327 or on the Kinasao website.

Cards for Canadian Military: When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address: A Canadian Forces Member: PO Box 5140 Stn Forces, Belleville ON K8N 5W6. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards will be sent overseas to these wonderful, special people, who have sacrificed so much.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", vs. 1, 2 & 3 (French Processional)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

HYMN: ELW# 262 "Wait for the Lord" 2X (Taizé Community)

ADVENT READINGS AND CAROLS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

In this Advent season of hope and expectation, the whole world awaits the coming of the Savior. We hear the words of the prophets. We sing of God's promises. We place our hope in God. The carols in this service draw from a variety of countries, cultures, and traditions. The dialogue, response following the lessons, responsive prayer, and blessing/dismissal are based on passages from Isaiah.

DIALOGUE

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. Let the earth hear, and all that fills it.
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.
Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
This is the Lord for whom we wait; let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of God.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Let us pray. O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of comfort, peace, and joy. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your peace throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ¹⁹The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰Your sun shall no more go down, or your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Here ends the reading. Thanks be to God.

We will wait for the Lord, and we will hope in God who saves us.

CAROL: ELW#243 "Lost in the Night" (Nordic Hymn) vs. 1 & 4

SECOND READING: Isaiah 11:1-9

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, and 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. ⁷The 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.

Here ends the reading. Thanks be to God.

We will wait for the Lord, and we will hope in God who saves us.

CAROL: ELW#264 "Prepare the Royal Highway" vs. 1 & 3 (Swedish Folk Tune)

THIRD READING: Isaiah 40:1-5

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Here ends the reading. Thanks be to God.

We will wait for the Lord, and we will hope in God who saves us.

CAROL: ELW#266 "All Earth is Hopeful" (Spanish text and music), vs. 1-3

FOURTH READING: Isaiah 40:9-11

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

We will wait for the Lord, and we will hope in God who saves us.

CAROL: ELW#250 "Blessed Be the God of Israel" (English Folk Tune), vs. 1

PRESENTATION OF GRADE 3 BIBLES: Berkley Kristiansen
Hudsen Kindt
Lyndon LaBrash
Leo Montgomery
Mackenzie Wiser

CAROL: ELW#250 "Blessed Be the God of Israel" (English Folk Tune), vs. 2 & 3

FIFTH READING: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

We will wait for the Lord, and we will hope in God who saves us.

CAROL: ELW#265 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (Basque Carol), vs. 1 & 2

"Annunciation Report" by Garry Miller

CAROL: ELW#265 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (Basque Carol), vs. 3 & 4

PRAYER

God strengthens us for the journey.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence, praying Hear us O God, and responding, your mercy is great.

...

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.
We share a sign of that peace.

OFFERING HYMN: ACS#905 "We are Waiting for Jesus"

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray, God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Break open what we have offered, ourselves, our time and our possessions. Use them. Prepare the way before us. Give us eyes to see you in the faces of all whom we encounter. We pray this through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray, 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" (Cameroon Traditional)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.