



Union Lutheran Church

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3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal
With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (Cherwien)

GATHERING

* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

P The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 33:14)

C Amen.

P The Lord proclaimed, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking for forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord and the things which we have neglected. (Malachi 3:1)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P God of grace,

C we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. Prepare our hearts to follow Jesus in doing your holy will. Forgive us, we pray, and shape our lives according to the cross of Christ who has called us to walk in his ways. Restore us to a right relationship with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P In the name of Jesus, God's only Son who came to do the will of his Father, you are forgiven. By Christ's holy sacrifice your sins are wiped clean and you are made right with our heavenly Father. Rejoice in this free gift and take it to heart.

C Thanks be to God! Amen.

* HYMN: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

LBW# 34

* Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* Kyrie *(spoken not sung)*

LBW p. 78-79

(Hymn of Praise is omitted during the season of Advent.)

* Salutation

* Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever **Amen.**

WORD

Children's Message and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kids Choir

(3rd Candle Hoping/Shepherds)

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

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 have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not 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 gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146 *sung responsively (Congregation (bold) and Choir (not bolded))*

Choir ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

C ²**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,***
for there is no | help in them.

Choir ³When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,*
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

C ⁴**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help!***
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

Choir ⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them,*
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

C ⁶**Who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,***
and food to | those who hunger.

Choir ⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;*

the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

C **⁸The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;***
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the
wicked.

Choir ⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,*
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Epistle Lesson: James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

* Gospel Acclamation

LBW p. 83

* Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Sermon: *Fear Not*

Pastor Heidi Punt

* HYMN: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

LBW# 30

* Nicene Creed

LBW p. 84

* Prayer of the Church & Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 85-86

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord’s Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Gerald Bame Scholarship Fund. During the month of December, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on Food for the Poor). Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Anthem: *Go and tell John* (Pfauscht)

Chancel Choir

MEAL

* Offertory ("*Let the Vineyards...*")

LBW p. 86

* Offertory Prayer

P Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us. May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight.

C Amen.

* Great Thanksgiving & Sanctus

LBW p. 88-89

* Words of Institution

LBW p. 89

* Lord's Prayer

LBW p. 91

Lamb of God & Distribution of Communion

LBW p. 92

At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. For those who prefer individually sealed units please indicate. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out a communion card located in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

* Post-Communion Canticle ("*Thank the Lord...*")

LBW p. 92

* Post-Communion Prayer

P God of new beginnings, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us for the journey of faith as we wait and watch for the Lord's Messiah to break into our world in ever amazing ways.

C: Amen.

SENDING

* Benediction

P As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

C Amen.

* HYMN: *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

LBW# 36

* Sending

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C Amen, amen, amen

Postlude: *On Jordan's Banks* (Cherwien)

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (pages 77-97)

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Current Fund Financial Information:

Offering received Sunday, December 4	\$3,984.00
Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan	\$5,556.00

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, and Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care), and Jean Ray (Brookdale)

Homebound Members – Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery - Kathleen Agner, Evonne Batten, Bill Broadway, Mike Cauble, Ashley Deaton, Glenn Eagle, Linda Hartley, Steve Hutchens, Tommy and Joan Kerns, James Kluttz, Pat Kluttz, Nancy Kesler, John Knight, Deena Lanning, Eric Miller, Donnie Miller, Dwight Miller, Harold Miller, Dusty Morgan, Gladys Morgan, Jesse Morgan, Sr., Kay Morgan, William Page, Doug Peeler, Sylvia Peeler, Wyatt Thompson, and Effie Vellines

Continual Prayer - Nancy Ballew (mother of Kat Clifton), Nancy Barringer (cousin of Larry Barringer), Shonna Black (daughter of Jack and Deena Lanning), Gary Brown (friend of Karen Barringer), Vanna Calloway (friend of Kat Clifton), Janet Dunning (sister of Doris Shepherd), Pastor Brack East (NALC Pastor), June Fraley, Pastor Gross (NALC Pastor in Ukraine with Russian invasion), Drew Harrington (granddaughter of Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt), Amy Lowder Harrison and Jesse Morgan, Jr., Terry Holt (friend of Frank and Dawn Merrell), Emily Jones (sister of Jimmy Plyler), Teresa Kesler, Bobby Lippard (friend of Union), Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Patsy Lyerly and Family, Joe and Sylvia McDaniel, David Mitchell (friend of Pete Nguyen), Della Morgan (mother of Pam Vellines), Dusty Morgan, Sr. Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), Ralph Neilson (relative of Evonne Batten), Hong Nguyen (mother of Pete Nguyen), Marvin Nunn, Sally Simmerson (friend of Lucinda Fraley), Ben Smith (brother in law of Cathy Painter), Hailey Swanson (granddaughter of Janie Lesley), James and Mary Trexler (sister of Brenda and Linda Cauble), Brinley Rose Upchurch, Kim Walton (friend of Lucinda Fraley), Union Fire Department #76, Haiti (gangs), Nigerian Christians, and those affected by natural or political disasters.

Confirmation Students: Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Bailey Wilhelm, and Lucas Wilhelm

PART FIVE: The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys? It is the unique power which Christ has given to his Church on earth to forgive the sins of penitent sinners, and to retain the sins of the impenitent, so long as they do not repent.



(Martin Luther's Small Catechism 2010 Edition Sola Publishing-Pocket Version, page 26)

Union News

Sunday's Activities, December 11:

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (Preschool-5th grade) will be singing at 10:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Youth Chime Practice

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

Children & Youth: God Cares for His People ~ Exodus 16

Adult Sunday School Class: Zechariah Speaks ~ Luke 1:57-66, 76-79

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Scriptures for Sunday, December 11: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:1-10;

James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15; Theme: *Fear Not*

10:30 a.m. Noisy Offering will be collected to assist with cost of

Children's Live Nativity gift and Shut-ins Caroling Basket

Following worship, Live Nativity **costumes** will be available for pick up.

1:00 p.m. Church Council and Staff Christmas Party

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Little Lutherans (5th grade and younger)

Please note: Social Ministry Committee & Mission Team will not meet today.

Deadline for Poinsettia booklet information.

During the season of Advent,

the Altar Greenery is given to the glory of God.

This Weeks' Activities:

Monday, Dec. 12

Setting up for Live Nativity begins

Tuesday, Dec. 13

5:45 p.m. Advent Dinner of soup & sandwiches
(sponsored by the Property)

6:30 p.m. Advent Service and Confirmation

Proclaim the Wondrous Birth of John the Baptist

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-8; Acts 13:22-25;

Luke 1:5-25

Advent Offering – Social Ministry Fund

Wednesday, Dec. 14

10:30 a.m. Advent Service

Proclaim the Wondrous Birth of John the Baptist

2:00 p.m. Lay Ministers

12 noon Advent Lunch

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

Friday, Dec. 16

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Cookies drop off

Saturday, Dec. 17

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Cookies drop off

9:30 a.m. Volunteers preparing goodies

2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Live Nativity

Next Sunday's Activities (December 18):

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (Preschool-5th grade) will be singing at 10:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Youth Chime Practice

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

Children & Youth: Water from the Rock ~ Exodus 17:1-7

Adult Sunday School Class:

John the Baptist Appears ~ Luke 3:22b-6, 15-18

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Scriptures for Sunday, December 18:

Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24:1-10; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Theme: *A Sign from God*

10:30 a.m. Owen James Miller's Holy Baptism

2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Live Nativity

Chili Supper and Christmas Caroling following the Live Nativity

Deadline for January Messenger articles.

During the season of Advent,

the Altar Greenery is given to the glory of God.

For two inspirational afternoons before Christmas, Bethlehem comes alive in Salisbury, NC. Join the congregation of Union Lutheran Church as it transforms its church grounds to telling the story of our Savior's birth with a drive thru Live Nativity on Saturday, December 17 & Sunday, December 18, from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bring neighbors, friends, and families of all ages! Refreshments provided. Donations gladly accepted.

*Following the Live Nativity on **Sunday, December 18**, the Worship & Music Committee is hosting a **Chili Supper** before **Christmas Caroling** to our shut-ins. All are welcome to dinner and Caroling!*

Poinsettias

Please note date & time changes: Everyone is invited to bring your own poinsettia from home on **Friday, December 23**, from **10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** or on **Saturday, December 24**, from **10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** to decorate the Sanctuary.

All who participate are requested to wait till Sunday, December 25, following worship before taking your flower home.

If you would like to place a memorial or honorarium with your poinsettia, please send the information to the church office by **December 11**.

Please remember to mark your poinsettia with your name so you'll know which flower to pick up on the 25th.

Christmas Services Schedule:

*Saturday, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
at 4:00 p.m. (Informal) & 8:00 p.m.*

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. (No Sunday School)

2022 End of the Year Giving

2022 is quickly coming to a close. If you want to have any **special giving credited** to your account before the year ends please do so by **Sunday, December 25**.

2023 Offering Envelopes

The church office plans to have offering envelopes for Adults and Children available in the church narthex to pick up during the Christmas Holidays.

Please do not use them until Sunday, January 1, 2023.

If you received a physical offering envelope in 2022, the same number has been assigned for 2023.

How Can You Serve?

The Sunday School Classes are serving the Union Fire Department by collecting **individual snacks** and drinks for the Union Fire Department to grab and eat on their way out for a call. These items can be protein bars, energy bars, beef jerky, water, Gatorade, etc.

A plastic container is available in the doorway across for the Music Room for the items or you can turn them in the Grade School "Joy" classroom.

Everyone is invited to participate in this month's Sunday School project!

Those Serving in December

Acolytes: Jordan and Mallory Eagle

Altar Guild: Robyn Arey, Mary Hutchens, and Patsy Lyerly

Communion Assistants: Vicki Hunter, Elbert Kluttz, and Franklin Merrell

Lay Readers: Robyn Arey, Vicki Hunter, Ruby Leazer,
Wayne and Pam Vellines

Ushers: Mike Cauble, Phil Cauble (HU), Elbert Kluttz,
Wade Leazer, and Ronald Vellines

Offering Counters:

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, and Vivian Sprinkle

OUR MISSION:

*Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded~
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)*

OUR VISION:

One Relationship at a Time

BE OUR GUEST

Can't wait to see what God can do!

