

# Advent Conspiracy & Preparation

November 18, 2018

8:08 and 11:08am

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sweet Air  
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[www.stjohnssweetair.org](http://www.stjohnssweetair.org)

MUSIC PREPARING US FOR WORSHIP

Mike Chambers

ADVENT CONSPIRACY ENTER THE STORY

screen

*ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship is the red hymnal*

*P = Pastor L = Leader*

(In December a mission team rep lighting the Advent candles)

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Pastor Sarah Wright

*Advent is a season of preparation.*

*Our Advent mission is based on the book "Advent Conspiracy" helping us substitute consumption with creative thanksgiving & caring compassion.*

*Instead of shopping for stuff, there are gifts that help people live in this world.*

*This is a positive Advent conspiracy!*

*Let us sing:*

O come O come Emmanuel.  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lowly exile here.  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel.  
Shall come to you O Israel.

*Today Queen Esther is surrounded by riches and adorned with beauty, but will she risk it all to save people? Let us confess we need God's help with this challenge.*

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel.  
Shall come to you O Israel.

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS** by Rev. Nathan Decker

Assisting Minister

*Please kneel or sit as you are able for confession and forgiveness.*

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

L: We prepare with Thanksgiving our hearts for Advent, the coming of Christ into our hurting hearts and hurting world. Let us return again to God in confession.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

L: Great God of Presence and Promised Coming,

**All: We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to fulfill your desire for us to love one another.**

**We have not followed the paths you have given us,  
choosing instead to follow our own.**

**We have broken relationships,**

**We chase consumer desires,**

**We treat those who wait on us as less than human.**

**We have rebelled against your love;**

**We spend our time and money,**

**on gifts for those who give us gifts.**

**We have not loved our neighbors, we spend time with  
family and friends out of obligation, rather than sincere love.**

**We have not heard the cry of the needy,**

**The mouth of the poor is still hungry for mercy,**

**The cause of the oppressed is still thirsty for justice.**

**Free us for joyful obedience, through the Advent of Christ,**

**Our Lord, Our Messiah, Our Hope. Amen.**

L: Good News! Good News! Good News!

God so loved the world that he gave

Sinful and broken humanity a gift: Emmanuel, God with us.

This proves God's love toward us!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

**GREETING OF FROM APOSTLE PAUL** (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Assisting Minister

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

and the communion

**All: And also with you.**

Please rise as you are able.

**HYMN**

*"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"*

ELW # 241

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***PLEASE PRAY FOR***

***Those with illness:***

Jace Badros & family  
Carolyn Bengel  
Harvey Blevins  
Pastor Boliek  
Scott Clem  
Evan Davis & family  
Iona Dorn & family  
Trudy Fox  
Benton Gatch  
Mark Habicht  
Tiffany Henning  
The Hobbs family  
Brad Houck  
Vera Huggins  
John Kuchar III  
Jean Mace  
Jo Morrison  
Linda Nabb  
Sally Snell  
Richard Spahr  
Ruth Welkner  
Sophie Wittlesberger

***The bereaved:***

The family of Eve Spangler (wife of Ernie Nuetzel's cousin)

***Deployed soldiers & families/Special needs:***

Violence in our society  
California wildfires

***Current ministries:***

Empowerment of the Holy Spirit in:  
† Veteran's Ministry  
† Children & Family Ministries  
† Splash & Nursery

***Our mission partners:***

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
– Prs. Gary Dittman & Carol Perlie  
Prs. Mercedes & Isaias Nelson (Dom. Rep.)  
Pr. Tyrone Smith (New Orleans)  
National ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton  
Delaware Maryland synod Bishop Bill Gohl  
Nicole & Kevin Fuhr,  
serving Central America  
Crucified Church in Johnstown, PA – Pr.  
Josh Knipple  
Freestate ChalleNGe Academy

***Prayers of thanksgiving:***

Hans & Laura Kefauver  
Malik & Josilane Kelly,  
Andrew, Aaron  
Tim & Elizabeth Kinser,  
Van, Austin, Jenna

*Names on the prayer list are printed with permission of the person named. After receiving permission you may place a completed yellow prayer request card in the offering plate or contact the church office to add a name to the prayer list. After four weeks on the list a name will be removed unless the office is notified for an extension of time. **Visitation:** please notify the church office if you anticipate a hospital stay. Thank you!*

**SALUATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor Sarah Wright

P: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. We come to worship you, the light of the world. Help us to join the story and be moved by your Word. Help us this busy season to slow down, so that we might worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**BIBLE READING** Esther 4:8-17

Reader NRSV page 440

Reader: Let's Join the story. We are at Act 4: Israel & the Prophets Last week we heard about the prophet Nathan challenging King David. This week we hear a story about God's people in 5<sup>th</sup> century Persian captivity. Mordecai, a Jew, brought up Hadassah, also known by her Persian name, Esther, and adopted her as his own daughter. Esther wins a beauty contest to become the new queen. There are forces at work to destroy the Jews. How does God place us here "for such a time as this"? Will you risk something great (and what might that be?) for others? A reading from Esther chapter 4:

Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people.

<sup>9</sup>Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup>Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, <sup>11</sup>"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." <sup>12</sup>When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, <sup>13</sup>Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup>For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." <sup>15</sup>Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, <sup>16</sup>"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup>Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Pastor Lisa Arrington

HYMN "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" ELW # 772

APOSTLES' CREED Assisting Minister

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Assisting Minister

*Please be seated or kneel for the prayers of the church*

SHARING PEACE Assisting Minister

L: Let us rise. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**ALL: And also with you.**

L: Let us greet one another especially visitors.

*If you are not well give a wave for peace and prayers.*

*We are a very loving church, but please ask someone if it is okay to share a hug.*

*Hand sanitizer is in the back of the church.*

OFFERING & MUSIC

L: Let us celebrate the offering of time, talents and treasures. Don't forget your yellow pew card.

OFFERTORY 8:08 Michael Chambers

OFFERTORY ANTHEM 11:08 "Will We Know Him" arr. Don Besig  
Jubilee Singers

OFFERTORY "Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW # 188

*Please rise as you are able & offering plates will be brought forward.*

PRESENTING OUR OFFERING TO GOD Assisting Minister

L: Let us pray, merciful God

**All: Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and the unity of all creation through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

WORDS FOR COMMUNION

P: We remember how on the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying take and

eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying; This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Christ was born to save. Let us proclaim this holy advent news continues:

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Let us pause in holy remembrance and silence before we pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Today, Communion will be celebrated at the altar rail. Follow the guide of the ushers to start at the center of the rail. You're invited to receive the bread (gluten-free), then individual glasses of red wine or white grape juice. The presiding pastor will bless and dismiss everyone once all have received. If you have difficulty making it up the steps to the railing, notify an usher and it would be our privilege to bring Communion to you.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION "Lamb of God" ELW page 154

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" ELW # 461

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: Please rise as you are able. Receive the blessing: may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**ALL: Amen.**

NEXT STEPS & BLESSING:

Pastor Lisa Arrington

P: (Romans 13) Put on the armor of Christ's light. Shine for all the world to see. Go forth in the love of God!

HYMN "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" ELW # 769

MISSION

L: Let us engage in this mission together

**All: Welcome All. Tell the Story. Grow as Disciples.**