

Advent Conspiracy & Preparation

November 25, 2018

8:08 and 11:08am

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sweet Air
3911 Sweet Air Road, Phoenix, MD 21131
410.592.6565

www.stjohnssweetair.org

ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship is the red hymnal

P = Pastor L = Leader

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Pastor Sarah Wright

ADVENT CONSPIRACY ENTER THE STORY

screen

Children opening presents

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

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 Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel.

Shall come to you O Israel.

Today God promises to restore us and our world. What do we want for Christmas?

What do we need?

Jesus says:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,

where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal
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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Jace Badros & family
Carolyn Bengel
Harvey Blevins
Pastor Boliek
Carolyn Bonsignore
Scott Clem
Ava Daniels
Beverlae Davis
Evan Davis & family
Iona Dorn & family
Benton Gatch
Mark Habicht
Tiffany Henning
The Hobbs family
Vera Huggins
John Kuchar III
Jean Mace
Fred Meise
Tony Montone
Jo Morrison
The Murphy family
Stacey Schneidereith
Sally Snell
Ruth Welkner
Sophie Wittlesberger

The bereaved:

Comfort for the family of Jane Lee Philpot,
mother of Lea Ann Mainster

Special needs:

Violence in our society
California wildfires

Current ministries:

Empowerment of the Holy Spirit in:
† Voyager's
† Pier 456
† 360 Club

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:

Ed & Judy Kiper
Paul & Jennifer Kirkegaard,
Sybil, Sophia
Dolores Klass
Rejoicing with Salem (Jarrettsville), who
called Rev. Bettylou Deuchler, as their
new pastor.
Celebrating Rev. Chris Schaefer who
received the church's gift of ordination
and has been called by Divinity Lutheran
(Towson).
Prayers of thanksgiving for Rev. George
Tuttle (St. John, Linthicum), who received
a new call to serve in the North Carolina
Synod, and who will complete his work
in our synod this weekend.

*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!*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *“Lamb of God”* ELW page 154

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN
 “Bread of Life from Heaven” ELW # 474

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:

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 *“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth”* ELW # 727

MISSION

Assistant: Let us engage in this mission together

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

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

All: And also with you.

Please rise as you are able.

HYMN *“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”* ELW # 246

SALUATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Micah 5:2-5a; 6:6-8 Reader NRSV page 849-850

Reader: Let’s Join the story. We are at Act 4: Israel & the Prophets Last week we heard about Queen Esther risking wealth and position that others may live. This week we hear how God promises to restore us and our world. What do you want for Christmas? What does God want? How can we walk with God through Advent? A reading from Micah chapter 5:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Now to chapter 6, what can we offer God? What does God want?

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Pastor Sarah Wright

HYMN “Let Streams of Living Justice” ELW # 710

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 SOLO 8:08 “Children of the Heavenly Father” Swedish folk tune
Phyllis Schott, soloist

OFFERTORY ANTHEM 11:08 “Prepare!” - Allen Pote
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: “With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? Amen.

WORDS FOR COMMUNION

P: Our Lord Jesus did justice, showed kindness and walked humbly with our God, 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

You are invited to continuous communion. It is a meal of God’s grace and love for all believers. Ushers will invite you down the center aisle. Please share your name. Receive bread or a blessing. Dip the bread into red wine or white grape juice and return to your seats by the side aisles.