

NOTES

# Advent Conspiracy & Preparation

December 16, 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](http://www.stjohnssweetair.org)

*ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship is the red hymnal*

*P = Pastor    L = Leader*

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Pastor Sarah Wright

Video: Advent Conspiracy

ADVENT CONSPIRACY ENTER THE STORY

Pastor Sarah Wright

(a mission team representative from AMAZING GRACE will light 3 Advent candles)

Jane Felter and Peter Frantz 8:08 am

Frannie Butcher 9:38 am

Bill Markley 11:08 am

*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.*

*The third candle is rose colored because we are getting closer to the joy that God indeed sends a Savior to save!*

*Let us sing:*

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel.  
Shall come to you O Israel.

*Today we hear from the prophet Habakkuk*

“Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vines;  
though the produce of the olive fails,  
and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold,  
and there is no herd in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.  
<sup>19</sup> GOD, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
and makes me tread upon the heights.”

*Let us rejoice:*

**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.**

***PLEASE PRAY FOR***

***Those with illness:***

Pastor Boliek  
Carolyn Bonsignore  
Brandon & family  
Grace Caldwell  
Ruth Chicknoski  
Cindy Christopher  
Scott Clem  
Ava Daniels  
Beverlae Davis  
Evan Davis & family  
Iona Dorn & family  
Tom Dreisch  
Benton Gatch  
Mark Habicht  
Tiffany Henning  
The Hobbs family  
Orville Hughes  
Emma Knicely  
Vicki Kalabokes  
John Kuchar III  
Fred Meise  
Melanie & family  
Tony Montone  
Jo Morrison  
The Murphy family  
Hitch Roland  
Stacey Schneidereith  
Sally Snell  
Richard Spahr  
Melanie Vohs  
Ruth Welkner  
Sophie Wittlesberger

***The bereaved:***

Comfort for the family of Ken Bareham.  
A memorial service for the Barehams will be Jan. 19 at St. John's.

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

Violence in our society

***Current ministries:***

Empowerment of the Holy Spirit in:

† Worship & Music

† Jubilee Singers

† St. John's Bronze

***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:***

John & Carol Kuchar,

John III, Nicholas

Barry Kuhne

Bill & Ruth Ann Langlotz

Doris Koerner

Thomas & Valerie Kress,

Christopher, Nicholas, Nicole

George & Kim Kroener,

Jesse, Abigail

*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!*

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

**VIDEO: Amazing Grace Artists continue to emerge**

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" ELW # 265

### 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

Pastor Lisa Arrington

### HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound!" ELW # 239

### MISSION

**L:** Let us engage in this mission together  
**All: Welcome All. Tell the Story. Grow as Disciples.**

Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**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 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

### HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" ELW # 244

### 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.*

### MISSION MOMENT AMAZING GRACE

Pastor Sarah Wright, introduction  
Judy Lapinski, video

### BIBLE READING Habakkuk 1:1-7, 2:2-3

Reader

Reader: Let's Join the story. We are at Act 4: Israel & the Prophets. Last week we heard the prophet Jeremiah remind people in worship to hear the Word of the Lord and act for justice. This week we hear from Habakkuk, the lesser known prophet who reminds us: Even when we see injustice in the world, God is still at work in the world. God does not turn a blind eye to pain and suffering but is working out a larger plan. **Q:** What injustices are you crying out to God about now? How might God be trying to use you as a tool in God's larger plan?

A reading from Habakkuk chapter 1 and 2:  
The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

<sup>2</sup> O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
 and you will not listen?  
 Or cry to you “Violence!”  
 and you will not save?  
<sup>3</sup> Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
 and look at trouble?  
 Destruction and violence are before me;  
 strife and contention arise.  
<sup>4</sup> So the law becomes slack  
 and justice never prevails.  
 The wicked surround the righteous—  
 therefore judgment comes forth perverted.  
<sup>5</sup> Look at the nations, and see!  
 Be astonished! Be astounded!  
 For a work is being done in your days  
 that you would not believe if you were told.  
<sup>6</sup> For I am rousing the Chaldeans,  
 that fierce and impetuous nation,  
 who march through the breadth of the earth  
 to seize dwellings not their own.  
<sup>7</sup> Dread and fearsome are they;  
 their justice and dignity proceed from themselves.  
 And now the reading from chapter 2:  
<sup>2</sup> Then the Lord answered me and said:  
 Write the vision;  
 make it plain on tablets,  
 so that a runner may read it.  
<sup>3</sup> For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
 it speaks of the end, and does not lie.  
 If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
 it will surely come, it will not delay

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Lisa Arrington

**HYMN**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

ELW # 263  
 (vss 1-5)

**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 or the green card for e-giving.

**OFFERTORY MUSIC 8:08**

Michael Chambers

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM 11:08**

“Mary and Elizabeth”

- Pepper Choplin

Jubilee Singers

Susan Liberati and Pastor Sarah Wright, soloists

**OFFERTORY**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

ELW # 294

Verse 3

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

**PRESENTING OUR OFFERING TO GOD (not for screen)**

Assisting Minister

L: Let us pray, merciful God, we give you thanks for all the gifts you have given us. Bless the gifts for our brothers and sisters serving with Amazing Grace. Bless the mittens, coats, hats, scarves. Bless the food shared with great love. Receive our offering of praise and thanksgiving, that the greatest gift is Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**WORDS FOR COMMUNION**

P: In the night in which 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.