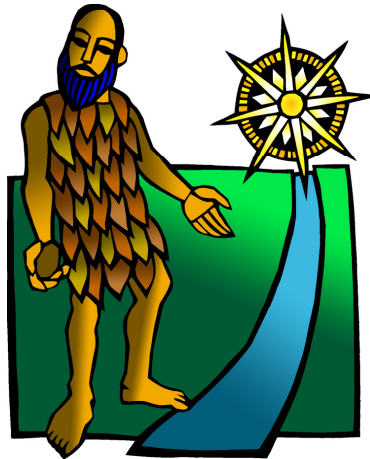


Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022
9:30 a.m.



GATHERING

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✠ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

Gathering Song: “My Lord, What a Morning” WOV 627

Refrain

My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

- 1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Greeting

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Advent 3

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,
**let us travel on God's holy way
and enter into Zion with singing. Amen**
Light the third candle.

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

3. Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray . . . Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

Children's Sermon

First Reading: 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 are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall 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 joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 146:5-10

**⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;

**⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.**

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

**⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th Chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Praise: "Once In Royal David's City"

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,

And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the Church

*(Each petition ends with...God in your mercy, the congregation responds:
hear our prayer.*

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you

The Offering Please leave your offering on our website: https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCLmH2sG-idxWYJMFGW_IQfxkD4hBw8W0Q6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKk0PpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

The Offertory *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... Eternal God, you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Again, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. . . Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "Joy Has Dawned"

Joy has dawned upon the world,
Promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glory.
But a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vulnerable and helpless.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophecy the story.
Gold, a King is born today,
Incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, His death will make a way,
And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
Given as a ransom,
Reconciling God and man,
Christ our mighty Champion.
What a Saviour, what a Friend,
What a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem,
Now the Lord of history.

OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To *gather* as God's people and nurture one another
- + To *know* the Word of God
- + To *grow* in faith, love, and service
- + To *go* into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew E Ollikainen
Music/Choir Director Mr. Michael Dettra
Worship Assistant Jennifer McQuiggan

GUEST REGISTER

If you are visiting with us today, please sign our Guest Book in the narthex.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God.

NUEVA CREACIÓN MISSION SUPPORT

Support of Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in Philadelphia for this week is presented by the Hoffmann Family in memory of loved ones.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: SUNDAY, December 4

8:00 a.m. 18 9:30 a.m. 16 Sunday School 5 **Total 39**

SOCIAL MINISTRY



GIFT CARDS FOR SHARING: As we have done the last two years we are collecting gift cards from local stores, i.e. Giant, Walmart, Aldi and ShopRite they will be distributed to clients at the Warminster Food Bank during the month of December. The response from the congregation the last 2 years has been generous! We hope for the same result again this year.

Look for the red tin of envelopes on the offering table. If you are donating more than one gift card, please take an envelope for each card.

If you would like to send in a donation, please use the church street address which is 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954, you can make the check payable to the Warminster Food Bank and it will be dropped off with the gift cards. It is a difficult year for many. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

FOOD DONATIONS: When you have food that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive up to the main entrance and leave your donation inside the bench outside the door. You may still bring food into the building during church and office hours. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to: www.warminsterfoodbank.org.

Thank-you for your continued support for our neighbors in need! Nancy Sclight/Social Ministry.



LAST DAY TO ORDER A POINSETTIA

Today, **Sunday, December 11** is the last day for dedicating poinsettias for Christmas Eve. The sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. The cost is **\$15 per plant**. You can also call the office to leave your dedication. Poinsettias may be picked up anytime after the 9 pm service on Christmas Eve.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 7:00 p.m. Family Candle Light Service Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion
- 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Online Christmas Eve Services

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 2022

Meeting ID: 893 2031 5353 Pass code: 434888

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89320315353?pwd=UVZXdzNGQ1doUFJyZzlpUnRMVmJMdzO9>

Online 9:00 p.m. December 24 Advent Christmas Eve Service

Meeting ID: 812 5579 8308 Pass code: 814888

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81255798308?pwd=ekZxay9wSWhEN3dFMzZWWFJQZG9kdzO9>



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

- 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship Service

Online Christmas Day Service

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service 2022

Meeting ID: 835 7312 4650 Pass code: 385899

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83573124650?pwd=anlUVzkxaWpGT3RxSGhuMkM4elpRQT09>

OFFICE HOURS IN DECEMBER

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Monday, December 26, returning Tuesday, January 10. Information regarding emergency pastoral coverage will be supplied at a later date.



GIVE US YOUR SMILE!

Do you find that you have gotten used to ordering online and prefer that over endless shopping around for sales? If so, consider using Smile.Amazon.com for your shopping and shipping needs. This acts the same as an Amazon account, but Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .5% of your purchases to the charity of your choice. Simply indicate Advent Lutheran Church, Richboro as your charity and the church will benefit. No cost is added to you. Advent has received donations of 516.24 as of June, 2022 from the Amazon Smile Foundation since 2016, when we signed up. If you need help setting up your account, call or text me (Gail Oines) at 215-534-8218.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

DECEMBER 11

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
- 10:45 a.m. Fellowship Time: George Henry

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 7:30 p.m. A.A. Open Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 7:30 p.m. A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 10:00 - noon Stitch Club



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 18

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
- 10:45 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open