
3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 12, 2021



WELCOME

HYMN: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” (LSB #344)

**On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**
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*Third Sunday
of Advent*

INVOCATION

ADVENT PROPHECY: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.” ¹⁸ “The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. ¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the LORD.

HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB #357)

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**
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CONFESSION OF SIN: (From Isaiah 64:8,9)

Pastor: O Lord, you are our Father.

People: We are the clay, You are the potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

Pastor: Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord;

People: Do not remember our sins forever.

Pastor: O, look upon us, we pray,

People: For we are all Your people. Amen.

HYMN: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (LSB #366)

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

**All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.**

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EPISTLE READING: Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” ¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

CHILDREN’S LESSON

SONG: “I Hear Angels” (*Gerrit Gustafson*)

**I hear angels singing praises,
I see men from ev’ry nation,
bowing down before the throne;
Like the sound of many waters,
like a rushing wind around us,
multitudes join the song.
And a symphony of praise arises
tears are wiped away from eyes
as men from ev’ry tongue and tribe all sing.
Holy, holy, God Almighty, Who was, Who is and is to come;
All the angels, are crying holy, to the Lamb who sits upon the throne. Holy, holy, God
Almighty, Who was, Who is and is to come;
All creation, is bringing glory, to the Lamb
Who sits upon the throne.**

**I see One Who’s full of wonder,
eyes of fire and voice of thunder, shining bright
His majesty; All the colors of the rainbow,
circle Him and fill His Temple, so beautiful this is to me.
And a symphony of praise arises,
tears are wiped away from eyes,
as men from ev’ry tongue and tribe all sing.**

**Holy, holy, God Almighty, Who was, Who is and is to come;
All the angels, are crying holy, to the Lamb who sits upon the throne. Holy, holy, God
Almighty, Who was, Who is and is to come;
All creation, is bringing glory, to the Lamb
Who sits upon the throne.**

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SERMON: Luke 3:7-14 “Produce Fruit!

HYMN: “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide <y Ways” (LSB #707)

**Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways,
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!**

**Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.**

**Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.**

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OFFERING

PRAYER:

Pastor: Lord, we thank You that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do.

People: Help us by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your word in pure hearts.

Pastor: So we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness,

People: And comforted throughout life and even in death. Amen.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

THE BLESSING:

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord,

People: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Bless you and preserve you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Go now in peace to serve the Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN: "For All the Saints" (LSB #677)

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**From earth's wide bound, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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1st CANDLE - (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** - We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE - (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** - God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready" Help us to be ready to welcome YOU. O GOD (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE- (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY**- The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE- (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** - The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because He loves us (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE - (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"**- The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

Christmas Project for Bridging.



Our Christmas project this year will be collecting blankets to give to Bridging. Bridging is a non-profit organization that helps people moving from homelessness or poverty into a home or apartment. They collect furniture and household items and then distribute them to those in need. Blankets are always a high demand item.

Please bring your new, or gently used blankets to church between now and Christmas. We will deliver the blankets to Bridging right after Christmas.

Blankets should be in good condition with no rips or stains. Please wash any used blankets that you bring. This is a great way to help those in our community and spread some Christmas joy. Thank you for supporting this project.

Chuck & Pat Squires



BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

Adult Bible Class:

Meets on Sundays at 8:30am-9:15am.

Also meets on Tuesdays at 11am-noon.

Location: Church fellowship hall.

Topic: Both classes are the same. We are currently finishing up our look at the book of Revelation.



Holiday Service Schedule:

Dec 15th, 6:30pm. Advent Service.

Advent Service Theme: "What Do Angels Do?"

Each week we'll be looking at the role angels play in God's plans and in our life as believers in Christ.

Dec 24th, 4pm. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Dec 25th, 9:30am. Christmas Day Service with Communion

Scripture References

December 12, 2021

Luke 3:7-9

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

Luke 3:10

¹⁰ "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

Luke 3:11-14

¹¹ John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" ¹³ "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

John 15:1-5

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

1. Why do we sometimes get frustrated when people say they are sorry?
2. What do we expect to happen when someone say they are sorry?
3. What does God expect to happen as he forgives our sins through Christ?
4. What false belief did many Israelites hold to at the time of John the Baptist?
5. How is the false belief of the Israelites reflected in our life?
6. What’s the only thing that counts when it comes to receiving God’s blessings?
7. How did the Pharisees and Sadducees show they rejected John’s message?
8. What did John’s baptism do for people?
9. What fruit of repentance was seen in the lives of those who believed John’s message about the coming Savior?
10. When do we lapse into spiritual fruitlessness?
11. What’s the only way for our Christian lives to become more fruitful?