

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 – SATURDAY SERVICE  
FIRST WEEKEND OF ADVENT  
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

**GATHERING**

Lighting of the candles

Prelude: “Mary Did You Know?”

Video: “What is Advent?”

Gathering song: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Please remain seated

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White – Please remain seated

Gathering words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

A light shines in the darkness.

**A light shines in the darkness.**

A prayer for peace is uttered in the silence.

**God’s people gather to wait with hope.**

Sharing of Peace

Grace and peace to you from the One who is, who was, and who is to come. May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Godsightings – Pastor Cindy White

We recognize God at work when we see acts of goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, love, peace, patience, kindness and caring. Where have you seen God at work in your life?

Gathering prayer – Please remain seated

Let us pray together ... **God of hope, we come before you full of expectation for what lies ahead. We are excited about the birth of Christ, but we know there is much to do before this baby arrives. A house needs to be prepared—a house in our hearts, where your grace may enter. A people needs to pray—a people longing for peace, that reconciliation may take hold in our world. A light needs to be turned on—a light of holy love, that we may reflect your glory. God of new life, prepare our hearts and our lives, that we may wait with joy and hope for the birth of your Son. Amen.**

Lighting of the first Advent candle – Please remain seated

Video: The Candle of Hope

**All sing together:**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**

**And ransom captive Israel**

**That mourns in lonely exile here**

**Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world.**

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

**We join with sisters and brothers around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey.**

Today, we light the candle of Hope.

**Even though the world seems dark and cold, we know that the light of Christ is coming. The face of our Lord will shine, and we shall be saved!**

Testifying against all suffering and darkness, we kindle this light. Together, we proclaim to the world that, in Christ, we have hope.

**All sing as first candle is lit:**

**Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## **THE WORD**

Gospel reading (Luke 21: 25-36) – Please remain seated

Holy God, may we taste and see the good things you are doing in our lives.

**May the words we hear inspire us to be your faithful followers. Amen.**

**A reading from Luke:** "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you

may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of Our Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

Today’s message – Pastor Cindy White

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

Special music: “For the Autumn Sky” – Tamaqua Area HS Jazz Choral  
From this week’s Community Thanksgiving Service

Offering prayer

Let us pray: **Holy, awesome God, we bring gifts of paper and coin, symbols of our gratitude and our love. Bless these symbols, that they may become acts of love and grace. Bless us and our gifts, that we may transform the world with love and grace. In gratitude and hope, we pray. Amen.**

The preparation – Please remain seated

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**We offer our thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, O God, for you are the Ground of our being, in whom we live and move. At the beginning you created the galaxies and planets, our<sup>[L]</sup>sun, the earth and moon, plants and animals, individuals and nations, every substance and spirit.

**You gave us your creative spirit to make friendships and families, art and music, love and compassion.**

You gave us power to acquire the secrets of our mother earth, to honor her and care for her, as she cares for us.<sup>[L]</sup>And so we join with all the creation that praises you, in every time and place.

**God of eternity, spirit and matter all express your splendor.**

We take this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Spirit we who eat and drink them may know a closer experience of your presence. On the night before Jesus died, he shared food with his disciples. He took bread, blessed and broke it, and giving it to them said: “Take and eat, this is my body which is given for you and for many. Do this to remember me,” He took wine, blessed it, and giving it to them said: “Drink this all of you. This is my blood which is shed for you and for many; do this to remember me”.

**To God be glory forever. Amen.**

We who are many are one body

**For we all share in the one bread**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us receive this Holy Sacrament remembering

that Jesus died for us, and hold him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*(Please follow the Pastor's instructions for Communion.)*

Post-Communion prayer - Please remain seated

Loving God, you have created all humanity in your image and likeness, and have revealed your plan and purpose in calling us your beloved.

**We commit ourselves to you.**

As we have shared this holy meal, inspire our hearts to see every man, woman and child given the dignity and value which is your purpose and your gift.

**We commit ourselves to you. Amen.**

Prayers of the People – Please remain seated

Jesus calls on us to follow him. Let us call on Jesus for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all peoples ... O God, strengthen us in our desire to serve you and others, and breathe into our bodies the passion of your love. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

**Hear our prayer**

For our community and those who live in it, and for our families, companions, and all those we love. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Please feel free to offer any prayer that is on your heart this evening.

Pastor says after each offered prayer: Lord in your mercy ...

**Hear this prayer**

Gracious and merciful God give us now the strength to wait patiently for your answer, and to live faithfully in response to your call. We pray this in the name of Jesus, to whom we again commit ourselves.

**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken – Please remain seated.

THE SENDING

Sung: "God Be with You 'til We Meet Again"

Spoken:

Brothers and sisters, our Advent journey has begun! Go from this place worshipping the one who brings forth light and love, joy and hope. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**