

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE – ADVENT WEEK 2
DECEMBER 4, 2021
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

GATHERING

Prelude: “Wake, Awake for Night is Flying”

Video: “The Heart of Advent”

Gathering Song: “Prepare the Way for the Lord” – Paul M. Harvey

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

Make God’s paths straight.

Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight.

The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

All will see the salvation of God.

See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!

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:

What are Godsightings? They’re instances in our daily lives when we’ve seen God at work—often through the acts of others.

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

The Lord has redeemed all people. Blessed be the Lord God!

Let us pray together ... **Blessed is the Lord, and blessed are God’s people to whom God sends a savior, the messiah, who is Christ the Lord. Blessed is our God, and blessed are God’s gifts, that grace us with forgiveness and every good gift. Lord, you have come to dwell within us. Build your temple within our hearts. Amen.**

Lighting of the Second Advent candle – Please remain seated

Video: The Candle of Peace

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.

The light grows gradually brighter as we move through Advent together.

The candle of Hope already burns bright. Today, we light the candle of Peace.

The coming Christ desires us all to thrive, patiently wanting us to turn from the ways of sin and death.

As we wait for the coming of the day of God, we want to be ready.

Seeking a straight path, we light this candle to guide our steps. Together, we prepare the way and strive to lead lives of holiness, goodness, and peace.

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 (Luke 3: 1-6)

Gospel reading – 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: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley

shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation."^[a]

The Word of Our Lord
Thanks be to God!

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

Paise song: "Wake, Awake for Night is Flying"

Offering our gifts

Let us pray: **Almighty Creator, you have blessed us with abundant life and steadfast love. We offer these gifts to you, asking that your Holy Spirit will bless them and use them to shower grace and love upon our brothers and sisters, both near and far. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

God calls us to be a praying people. Let us join in prayer, offering our praise, thanksgiving, and concerns to God ... For the church throughout the world and for all who proclaim the message of God's healing love. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For all the nations and peoples of the earth, and for justice, mercy, and peace. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For all who are needy, desolate, forgotten, suffering and/or lonely. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For the sick in body, mind or spirit and for all who assist them with hands of healing. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For those burdened by anxious days and sleepless nights. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For the dying and the dead, and for those who mourn. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For our community and those who live in it, and for our

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

Hear our prayer

For our congregation. May we continue to welcome newcomers. Continue to make Zion a place of hope and love for everyone in our community. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

Loving God we give this week into your hands. Be with us in all that we will do, may we enjoy this week and learn and grow in it. Help us to open our eyes and hearts to your work in our lives. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

Lord we raise up the special needs, concerns and prayers of those worshiping here this evening. Please feel free to offer any prayer that is on your heart. Lord in your mercy ...

Hear this prayer

Generous God, as we celebrate your blessings in our lives, we ask you to hear our prayers for the world this day. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the needs around us; give us courage to take action and patience to keep praying. In Jesus name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

The sending

Sending song: "Send Us Out"

Benediction

May your love overflow, rich and wholesome in the world. May you be found pure and blameless, having prepared a way and a place for the Lord in your hearts. May you reap the bountiful harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and bless you. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

And all God's people say

Thanks be to God.