

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
JANUARY 8, 2022
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

GATHERING

Prelude: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Video: "The Christmas Story, According to Children"

Gathering Song: "The Angels Cried" – Alan Jackson/Allison Krauss

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

Sing praises to the Lord. Sing of God's glory and strength.

God calls us over the waters, and strengthens us for the journey.

Sing praises to Christ. Sing of Christ's healing and love.

The waters of our baptism cleanse us, renewing our spirits and nursing our wounds.

Sing praises to the Spirit. Sing of the Spirit's comfort and hope.

The flames of the Spirit are like a refiner's fire, purifying the soul to the glory of God.

Gathering prayer

Let us pray together - **Source of love and mercy, as we enter a new year in the life of this church, may our love for you be made known in our love for one another. Help us leave old grievances and former argument behind, as we open our hearts to the possibilities that lie before us. Guide our footsteps into the glory of your ways, that we may live as you created us to be— beloved children, crowned with glory and honor. May our worship reflect the greatness of our calling, and the honor of our heritage. Amen.**

Sharing of Peace

The one who baptized us with fire and the Holy Spirit is here to wash away our guilt and pain. Turn to one another and offer signs of the peace that only Christ can give. 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?

THE WORD (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

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: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved;^[a] with you I am well pleased.”

The Word of Our Lord

Thanks be to God!

Today’s message – Pastor Cindy White

Special music – Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

Offering our gifts

Let us pray: **Lord of life and love, we offer these gifts to you. Bless them and use them, that others might be encouraged in the faith. Gracious God, use our lives as well. Help us share your story and pour out your love on everyone we meet. 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**

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. Be with us in all that we will do. May we enjoy this week and
learn and grow in it. 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: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Benediction

Go forth and proclaim the good news: God calls us by name and fashions us for
glory. Go forth and live the good news: the Holy Spirit blesses us and seals us in God's
love. Go as people blessed by God, that we might be a blessing to others. May the Lord
bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. Go in
peace, go in joy, go in love and serve the Lord.

And all God's people say

Thanks be to God.