

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
NOVEMBER 26, 2022
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

Note: Pastor White will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service. Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers during Prayers of the People.

GATHERING

Prelude: – “Prayer for Generosity” – St. Ignatius of Loyola

Video: “What is Advent?”

Gathering Song: “Prepare a Way for the Lord”

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Temple Talk – George Taylor

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Come, let's go together to God's mountain—

a mountain of God's glory and peace.

Let's prepare for Christ's arrival—

the birth of the prince of peace.

Come, let's worship the Spirit of love.

Clothed in Christ's love, we are ready to worship and pray.

Gathering prayer

Let us pray together: **Draw near to us, O God, even as we draw near to you. Open our hearts and our minds to your presence, and wake us up from the sleep and inattention holding us back. Prepare us to receive your love, even as we prepare our lives to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth. In joyful hope, we pray. Amen.**

Sharing of Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Godsightings:

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

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 (Matthew 24:36-44) – Please remain seated

Come, let's go to the mountain of God.

Let's climb to the heights of God's holy word, that God may teach us holy ways and guide us on righteous paths.

A reading from Matthew: “But no one knows about that day or hour. Not even the angels in heaven know. The Son does not know. Only the Father knows. Remember how it was in the days of Noah. It will be the same when the Son of Man comes. In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking. They were getting married. They were giving their daughters to be married. They did all those things right up to the day Noah entered the ark. They knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes. Two men will be in the field. One will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill. One will be taken and the other left. “So keep watch. You do not know on what day your Lord will come. You must understand something. Suppose the owner of the house knew what time of night the robber was coming. Then he would have kept watch. He would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready. The Son of Man will come at an hour when you don't expect him.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Special music – Pastor Cindy White – Please remain seated

PRAISE&PRAYER

The Offering Moment

Let us pray: **Gracious God, as we bring our gifts to you, we bring much more than earthly treasure; we bring our very lives. Transform us through our giving, that we may grow ever closer to you. Help us share your peace and love with others as joyfully and generously, as you have shared your gifts with us. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Come, let's go up to God's holy mountain, the mountain of love revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Let's go to join the feast of grace shown to us at this table of holy communion.

Come to this abundant feast, this mountain of love, that our hearts and minds may be prepared to receive the coming Christ.

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 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. 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.

The Distribution

Post-Communion prayer

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 ...

Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

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

THE SENDING – Please remain seated

Sung: "Prayer of St. Francis"

Benediction – Pastor Cindy White

Peace be with you,

and also with you.

Go forth to bring peace to the world.

And all God's people say **Thanks be to God!**