

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
DECEMBER 10, 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: "Glorious" – One Voice Children's Choir

Video: "Christmas Invitation"

Gathering Song: "The Thrill of Hope" Christy Nockels

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

Rejoice! God's promises are ever near.

We wait for Christ's birth with patience.

Rejoice! God's strength is with us.

We rest in the power of God's mighty love.

Rejoice! We gather in the joy of our salvation.

In this love, we gather to worship and pray.

Gathering prayer

Let us pray together: **Promised One, enter our hearts anew. Enter our worship with your promised presence, that we may know you better. Enter our lives and our world, that we may proclaim your presence and sing your praises. With joyous gratitude, we pray in your blessed name. 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 third Advent candle – Please remain seated
Video: The Candle of Joy

All sign 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.

Week by week, the light grows stronger and brighter, as we anticipate the coming Christ.

The candles of Hope and Peace are already ablaze. Today, we light the candle of Joy.

We excitedly anticipate the coming of the Mighty One. The promise of healing, comfort, liberty, and freedom is good news that is meant to be shared!

Rejoicing in the mercy and justice of our Lord, we kindle this flame. Together, we lift our hearts and voices in songs of joy.

All sing as third candle is lit:

**Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THE WORD

Gospel reading (Matthew 11:2-11) – Please remain seated

A reading from Matthew: ² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy^[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷ As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’^[b] ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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: **God of promises and joy, receive these gifts we return to you now. Bless this offering, that our gifts may be signs of joy and hope for others in need. 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: “May the Peace of God”

Benediction – Pastor Cindy White

And all God's people say

Thanks be to God!