December 20, 2020

9:30 AM Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent

# Welcome to Worship
# at
# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

As we resume in-person worship, please know that we will need to be flexible with worship and we will make adjustments as necessary as the pandemic continues. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding!

Please keep in mind:

- We ask that you not attend in-person worship if you have had a fever, cough, runny nose, have been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or have traveled outside the state of PA in the last two weeks.
- We will practice social distancing. The ushers will direct you to your seat and dismiss folks pew by pew at the end of worship. Once seated, please do not move about the sanctuary.
- The bathroom across from Pastor Becky's office is available for all to use in emergency situations only. Please follow guidelines posted on the bathroom mirror.
- Masks are required, following CDC recommendations. If you need a mask, we can provide one for you.
- If you bring your offering with you to worship, please place it in the offering baskets located at the door when you enter worship or when you exit worship.
- We ask that you take your bulletin with you or recycle it in the blue bin at the door when you exit worship.
- When communion is celebrated, please dispose of your trash using the trash can at the door when you exit.
- As we move through our worship, there will be no congregational singing. Hymn verses are provided for your prayerful reflection as the hymn is played. Any bolded congregational responses are for the entire congregation to respond with as we move through our worship service.

Online Worship continues through Zoom. The link for worship is available on the website and in the weekly email.

If you have questions or concerns, please speak with either Pastor Becky, Erika Haldeman (chair of Worship and Music and the Return to Church Taskforce) or Colleen Carlin (council president).

WORSHIP NOTES

Advent is one of the shortest seasons of the church year but it is rich with meaning and symbolism. The color is blue and symbolizes our waiting and watching - and the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Join us in worship and watch as we light a new candle each week, as the light grows brighter and brighter, while we wait and prepare for the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, to be born.

PRAYER LIST

The following names have been added to the prayer list: Alex Kunkel, Bob Moran, Betsy Rodger, Robin Seasock, Paige Seasock, Peyton Seasock, Nancy Terpoilli, Brian Allebach, Glen Van Dyke, Charles Krupp, Donna DiDio, RuthAnn Jadick, Jean Leister, Kenny Nace, Tom Ciesielka, Abigail and Eric Hails, Sonny Carson, Frank Puskoskie, Patricia Wheeler, Ann Brown Hager, Alyssa Gegan, Steve Sanko, David Mounts, Cathy Sweeney, Ann Lewis, Barb Klees, Carolyn Iris, and Melissa Snyder.

*Names are kept on the prayer list for three weeks unless specifically requested by the family or for those struggling through long-term illness or treatment. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 215-234-4888 or stj.stown@verizon.net.*

+ GATHERING +

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

PRELUDE I Saw Three Ships – Schmidt
Lindsay Detwiler, piano

WELCOME

*Please rise in body or spirit.*
GREETING
St. John's is a community that is
**Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love.**
We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
**Amen**

CALL TO WORSHIP – Evan Bolton
In this season of waiting, of longing,
of looking for you to come into our world
We are seeking light…
In our own lives,
**we are seeking light**

In our homes and neighborhoods,
**we are seeking light**

In our families,
**we are seeking light**

In our work,
**we are seeking light**

In our nation,
**we are seeking light**

In our world,
**we are seeking light**

Jesus says,
"Seek and you shall find
Knock and the door will be opened
Ask and it will be given to you."

**Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world**
**May we have eyes to see you**
**and ears to hear you**
**Come into our world today**. **Amen**

CAROL ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard On High
Owen Krauss, trumpet

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING LITANY – Missy Peart
My soul praises the Lord; my heart is happy because God is my Savior.
**I am not important, but God has shown his care for me. From now on, all people will say that I am blessed, because the Powerful One has done great things for me. His name is holy.**
God will always give mercy to those who worship him. God's arm is strong. He scatters the people who are proud and think great things about themselves.
**God brings down rulers from their throne, and he raises up the humble. God fills the hungry with good things, but he sends the rich away with nothing.**
God has helped his people Israel who serve him. He gave them his mercy. God has done what he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his children forever.

We light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath to remind us of the gift of Jesus, innocent and helpless, who shows us how to be people of faith.

*Light fourth candle.*

Let us pray. Thank you, God, for this Advent wreath that helps us keep time and watch for Jesus' coming. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see you in the lowly ones of this earth. Let your grace be with us that we may sing of your coming among us in Jesus. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

ADVENT SONG O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

+ WORD +

READING – Luke 1:26-38 – Elizabeth Hercek

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

[26]In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, [27]to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. [28]And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." [29]But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. [30]The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31]And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. [32]He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. [33]He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." [34]Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" [35]The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. [36]And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. [37]For nothing will be impossible with God." [38]Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL OFFERING – Holy Is His Name – Talbot
Meghan Carlin, soprano

STORY and REFLECTION Pastor Becky Schanely

CAROL ELW 277 Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

ADVENT CREED – Catherine Shade
*"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices"*
It is the coming of God among us – the Word made flesh – that allows our weary hearts to rejoice. And so, out of our weariness, filled with hope and faith and expectation, we speak the words of our faith:

**We believe in one God, who is Creator,**
**maker of all we see and all we don't see.**
**Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,**
**God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.**
**He is one with the Creator;**
**the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,**
**Breath of God moving among us;**
**Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ;**
**our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation!**

MUSICAL OFFERING He Is Born – arr. Aldinger
Youth Handbells

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Hear our prayer, O God:
**Come and save us soon.**

We cannot thank you enough, O Emmanuel, for your ongoing presence among us. Remain with us, and receive our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
**Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

+ SENDING +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION
The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
now and forever.
**Amen.**

CAROL ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain
Owen Krauss, trumpet

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

DISMISSAL
Go in peace to get ready for Jesus' birth.
**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: African Noel- Traditional African Folk Song - arr. Perry and Perry
Zack Truskowski, Conga drums

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***I Saw Three Ships -*** *Schmidt; ©2002 JS Productions - All Rights Reserved*
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***Angels We Have Heard On High;*** *Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864; PUBLIC DOMAIN*
***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel;*** *Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite; Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. OneLicense.net #A-709256; Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256*
***Holy Is His Name;*** *Talbot; Text: Based on Luke 1:46-55; Music: John Michael Talbot, b. 1954; Text and music ©1980, Birdwing Music/BMG Songs. All Rights Reserved.*
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***Away in a Manger;*** *Text: North American, 19th cent. PUBLIC DOMAIN*
***He Is Born;*** *arr. Aldinger*
***Go Tell It on the Mountain;*** *Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. PUBLIC DOMAIN*
***Postlude****- African Noel- Traditional African Folk Song - arr. Perry and Perry; Copyright © 2001 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. All Rights Reserved Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256.*

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

**Thu 12/24**
3:00 PM Zoom Worship
6:30 PM Drive Thru Nativity
7:30 PM Drive In Worship

**Fri 12/25**
CHRISTMAS DAY

**Sun 12/27**
Pre-Recorded Worship Available online

### Sponsorships for December 13

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of the birthday (Dec 23) of Ryan Barndt, the gift of this parents and sisters, Alyssa and Sara.

### SEND IN YOUR PICTURES!

We are also looking for pictures for our **Epiphany celebration**. We invite you to send in pictures of *your kings* (spouse, you, children, grandchildren, pets, etc) dressed as kings. All pictures should be emailed to the church office (stj.stown@verizon.net) by Sunday, January 3. Please include names of those pictured.

### STAR WORD REFLECTIONS

Did you pick a star word in January of 2020 Has that word shaped this last year in ways you'd be comfortable sharing within worship?

Pastor Becky is looking for individuals who are willing to share their star word reflections (1-3 minutes) as part of a pre-recorded service for January 3, 2021. If you'd be willing to participate, please email Pastor Becky (pastorbecky74@gmail.com).

### OPEN LINK FOOD PANTRY FOOD COLLECTION

Please bring your donations at the following times:

**Saturday—9-11 AM at the back entrance— Jan 2 and 16**

If you don't feel comfortable going to the store, monetary donations are always welcomed and then we can do the shopping for you! Place donations for Open Link Thanksgiving Collection in an envelope – make checks payable to Open Link.

# Christmas Eve Worship

**3 PM Online Worship**
Connect on Zoom for this Christmas Eve worship service
see the weekly email for the zoom link

**6:30 PM Live Nativity**
Drive-thru, no contact live nativity with live animals

**7:30 PM Outdoor Worship**
Stay in the safety of your car, tune in to the service on your car radio, sing, worship, share communion and celebrate Christ's birth.

*Watch for a separate email blast with volunteer needs for Christmas Eve worship and nativity!*

**The First Sunday of Christmas**
**December 27th**
Worship will be a pre-recorded service of Lessons and Carols featuring our young adults. The service will be available on St. John's website beginning Saturday, December 26th.

**The Second Sunday of Christmas**
**January 3rd**
Worship will be a pre-recorded service focusing on our 2020 star words. Join us as we reflect on God's presence and promise in 2020 and look forward to a new year of faithfulness and hope in 2021.

**Epiphany Sunday**
**January 10th**
In preparation for our Epiphany celebration, we invite you to send in pictures of your kings: your family, your children/grandchildren, pets, etc. dressed as kings.

**COMMUNITY MEAL**

On Monday, January 4, St. John's will host the First Monday Meal of 2021 at Pennsburg UCC. This meal will be drive through, like it was back in August. As we continue to live into this pandemic, our community is relying even more on these meals. Volunteers will be needed in two shifts – the first shift, from 3:00-5:00 PM, will do food prep in the kitchen at Pennsburg UCC with the second shift serving those who show up from 5:00-6:30 PM. All volunteers will be masked and gloved. Donations of certain items for the meal will be available on Sign Up Genius and general monetary donations can also be shared to offset the cost of items that will be purchased for the meal.

To sign up for a volunteer time slot, please visit the Sign Up Genius page below:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-community2
To sign up to donate food items needed for the meal, please visit the Sign Up Genius page below:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-community1

Any monetary donations to offset additional costs of the meal can be sent payable to St. John's Lutheran Church. Please put COMMUNITY MEAL in the memo line of your check.
If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Ernst (215-960-8340)

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

| Worship Attendance<br>12/13/2020 - Zoom - 55 households | | |
|---|---|---|
| Giving Amounts | Total received between 11/23-12/5/2020 | Amount Needed between 11/23-12/5/2020 |
| General Fund | $7,104.50 | $10,918 |
| Building Fund | $509.50 | |

*Weekly average is based on the 2020 budget. A weekly building fund amount needed is no longer reported as the building fund has been used for the mortgage, which has been paid off. All other building expenses are included in General Fund budget and giving.*
*The above numbers include electronic giving.*
*Mint duty is being done every other week for the time being.*

| **Capital Campaign Activity Update** | |
|---|---|
| Capital Campaign Contributions Pledged | $ 260,000.00 |
| Capital Campaign Contributions received between 11/23-12/5/2020 | 161.00 |
| **Capital Campaign Contributions received to date** | **$ 248,411.40** |

Ignited by Spirit
Growing in Love

## SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Readers - Evan Bolton, Missy Peart, Elizabeth Hercek, Catherine Shade

## ST. JOHN'S LEADERSHIP

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Colleen Carlin, President
Bob Conrad, Property
Erin Eisenhart, Worship and Music
Kristie Faust, Communications and Marketing
Matt Hoh, Vice President/ Staff Support
Elaine Keller, Secretary/ Faith Formation
Noreen Kelly, Finance
Barry Long, Member Engagement
Kathy Weidner, Outreach

Rev. Rebecca L. Schanely, Pastor
(pastorbecky74@gmail.com, 215-234-4580)

Vikki Shelor, Office Administrator (stj.stown@verizon.net)

Janet Aldinger, Director of Music (jeald@yahoo.com)

Michele Peart, Bookkeeper
Julie Hovanec, S.S. Superintendent
Bob Ernst, Facilities Manager
Michael Herm, Treasurer

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