

Welcome to Worship
at
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
a reconciling in Christ congregation



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

December 4, 2022

10:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Vicar: Vanessa Storlie

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

Phone: 610-258-6119

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www.stjohnseaston.org

Statement of Welcome

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.—Galatians 3:28

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people. St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

~

Communion is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

Nursery – A staffed nursery person is available in the nursery following Children's Chat . . .

Service Notes – * (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Announcements

Prelude

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,

C: We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit, you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

ELW # 264 *“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

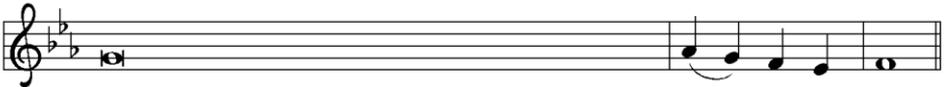
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In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



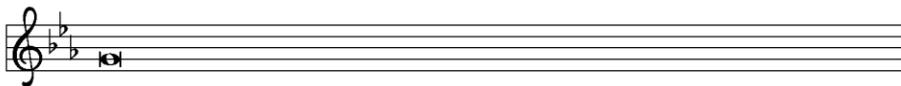
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



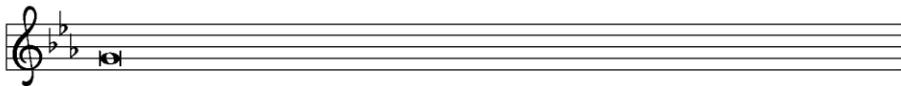
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*Canticle of Praise

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Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



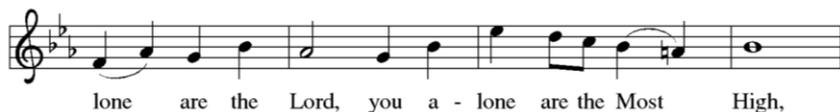
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



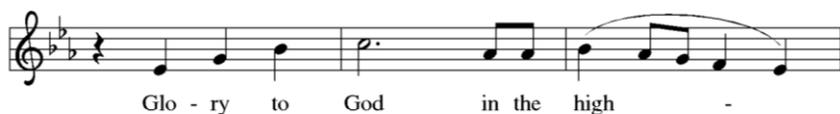
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath -

P: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: Amen.

The second candle is now lit.

Candle Lighters: *Panama and Lorenzo Crozier*

Advent Lighting Hymn -

ACS #905 “We Are Waiting for Jesus”



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up-on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

(please read responsively)

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

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Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel**

Matthew 3:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew , the 3rd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around

his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Chat

Sermon: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Hymn of the Day –

ELW #256 *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”*

**Apostles' Creed*

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession*

A: Let us pray. God, you constantly renew your church. Raise up leaders who will be heralds of good tidings and shepherds who will feed your flock with good things. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You give us a vision of all creation living in harmony where hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You care for those in need and those who suffer or fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence including those we mention on our prayer list, . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. Help us to pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

*** *The Sharing of the Peace***

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(Ushers now proceed forward to receive the offering plates from the Altar and begin to pass them through the pews.)

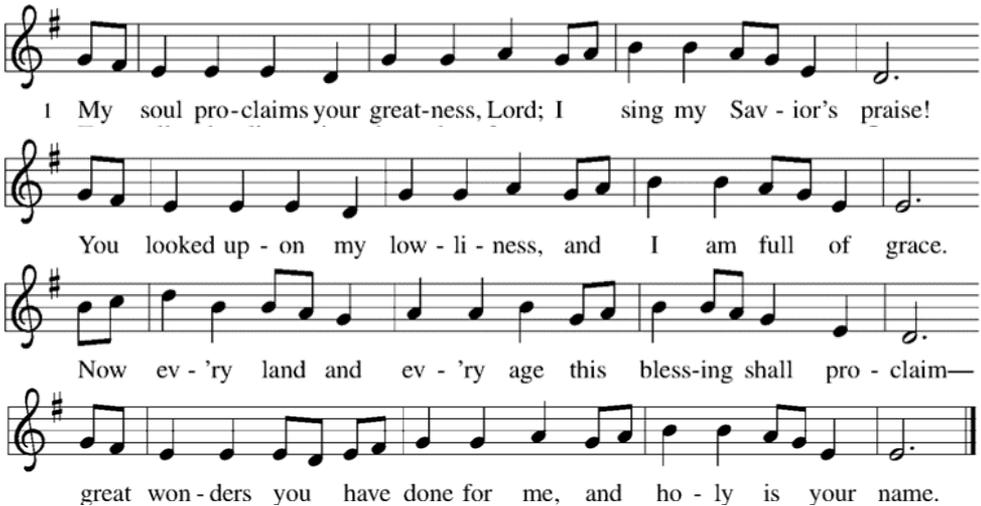
Offertory

*Presentation of Gifts

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

*Offertory Hymn

ELW #251 *“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”* (vs 1)



I My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

*Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

*Great Thanksgiving

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The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

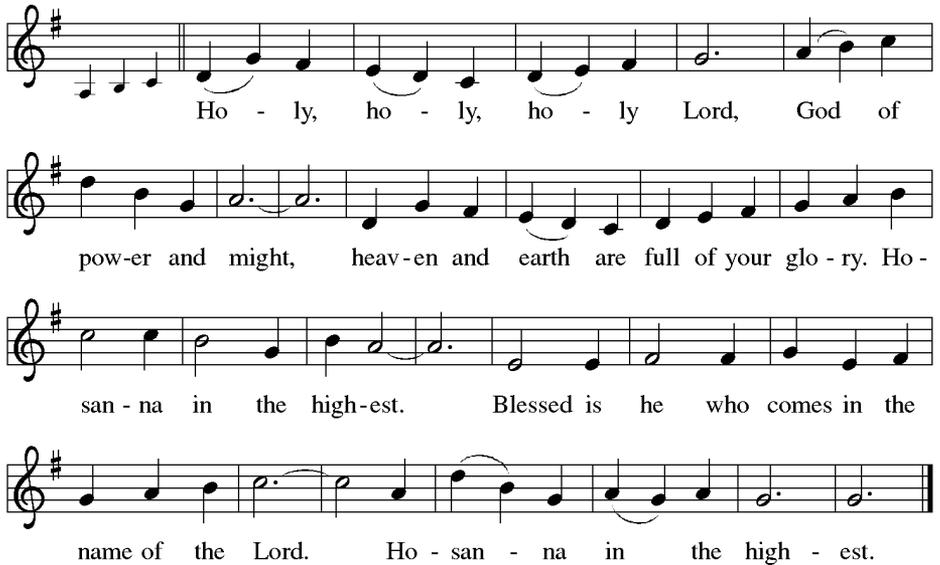
* Preface

(Pastor continues . . .)

*Holy, Holy, Holy

C:

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Communion Form

(Pastor continues ...)

*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

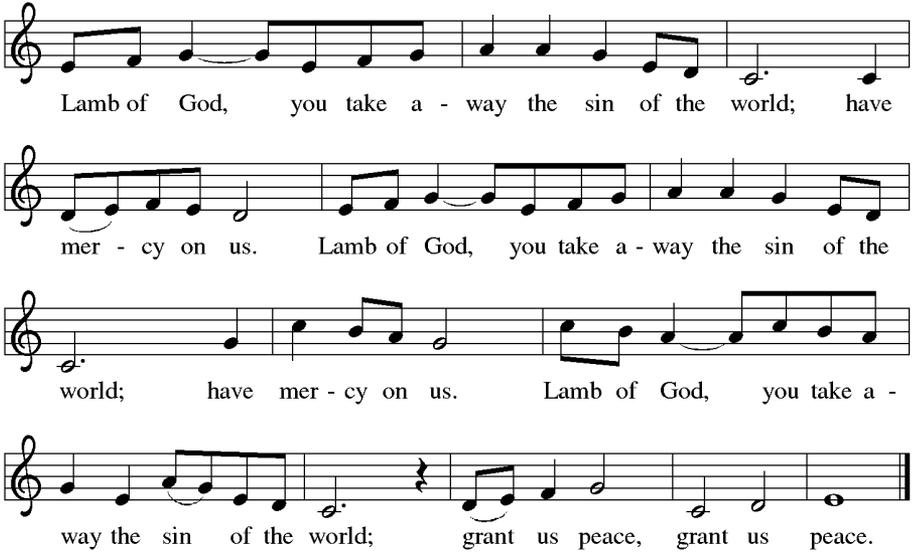
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

*Lamb of God

C:

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Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Holy Communion - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table here at St. John's.*

**At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Please remain at the front until the entire table has communed and you are dismissed.*

Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free and grape juice available upon request.

Communion Hymns –

ELW # 469 *“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”*

ELW # 496 *“One Bread, One Body”*

ELW # 474 *“Bread of Life from Heaven”*

Post Communion Canticle

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Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW # 259 *“Fling Wide the Door”*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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2. "We Are Waiting for Jesus" (ACS #905, Text and music: John Helgen ©2013 Augsburg Fortress.)

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" (ELW #251, Text: Based on the Magnificat, With One Voice © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.)

3. "By Your Hand You Feed Your People" (ELW #469, Text: Susan Briehl; Music: Marty Haugen; Text and music ©2002 GIA Publications Inc.)

4. "One Bread, One Body" (ELW #496, Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications.)

5. "Bread of Life from Heaven" (ELW #474, Text: Susan Briehl; Music: Argentine trad, refrain; Marty Haugen; Text and music ©2001 by GIA Publications, Inc.)

6. "Fling Wide the Door" (ELW #259, Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Arr. ©2006 Augsburg Fortress.)

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant – Chris Orem
Ushers – Roger Ruggles / Connie Garr
Reader – Steve Moyer
Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Volunteer

This Week at St. John's: December 4th – December 11th

Today (12/4/22) – Second Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am

Today (12/4/22) –Following Worship: Congregational Meeting

Today (12/4/22) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

Monday (12/5/22) –Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (12/6/22) – Bible Study – 11:00 am, Hospitality Room

Wednesday (12/7/22) – Council Reports Due

Wednesday (12/7/22) – Soup & Scripture, 6:00 pm, Gallery

Thursday (12/8/22) – Prayer Group, 9:30 - Chapel

Saturday (12/10/22) – Archives Committee, 10:00 am

Sunday (12/11/22) – Advent 3 Worship, 10:30 am

Sunday (12/11/22) – Following Worship: No Membership Mtg.

Sunday (12/11/22) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

Flower today are dedicated



Attendance: 54

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,773.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,270.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$104,108.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$108,960.00

(These totals do not include special envelopes.)



T O D A Y

Annual Congregational Meeting
- December 4th, Following Worship
Please plan on attending this
important event.

Advent Soup and Scripture

Wednesday - December 7th

*- Join us for a simple soup and
Advent scripture lesson on
"Angels"*



6:00-8:00 pm in the Gallery

Sunday School Pageant

- December 18th , during Worship.

All Children are invited to join us . . .

Contact the Vicar or Pastor with questions!

*Holiday Art Show – In the Gallery!
Come browse and shop for unique art and craft items
and gifts.*

*Sundays 12:00 – 3:00 pm
(the gallery is always looking for volunteers !)*



THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE PROVIDING SANDWICHES FOLLOWING THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY. PLEASE PLAN ON STAYING AFTER THE MEETING FOR A LIGHT LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP.

Peace is a central theme of the advent season but the main focus of the second week of Advent. One of the prophecies about Jesus calls him “the Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6-7). When the angels appeared to the shepherds, they ended their message by saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).

