

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**Sunday, December 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Rev. Stephanie White**

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Order of Worship ("Everlasting Light" Setting)

### Second Sunday in Advent

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

*\* = Please rise*

## **GATHERING**

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*We welcome all who are gathered with us for worship, whether in person or via the livestream! If you are worshipping with us via the livestream, please send an e-mail to [redeemer@gvtel.com](mailto:redeemer@gvtel.com) to let us know from where you are worshipping.*

**\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light;

✝ Jesus, the Light of the World;

and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

**Amen**

During Advent, God's promise illuminates a weary world, for any who have grown weary of waiting:

**God speaks, "Peace, be still."**

For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:

**God speaks, "Peace, be still."**

For any whose lips have been silenced:

**God speaks, "Peace, be still."**

This morning we light two candles. The first candle reminds us in a dark and weary world, that our HOPE lies securely in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. The second candles radiates God's perfect PEACE to calm our restless souls. As we continue our journey, let us be encouraged with hope, comforted with peace, and guided in truth.

## Hymn

### *He Came Down*

1. He came down that we may have hope,  
He came down that we may have hope,  
He came down that we may have hope.  
Hallelujah forevermore!
2. He came down that we may have peace...

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light.

*Silence is kept for reflection. Those who wish to may kneel.*

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

*Water is poured into the baptismal font.*

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

***O Day of Peace***

ELW #711

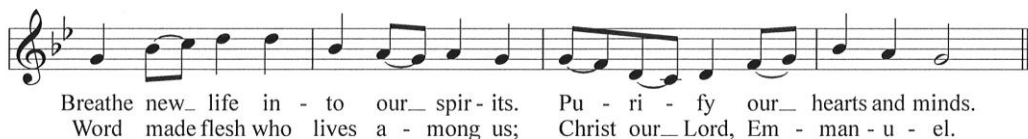
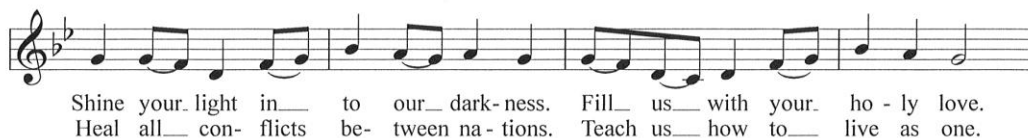
*All turn and face the processional cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

**\*Greeting**

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

**\*Kyrie**

*to the tune of Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*



## \*Canticle of Praise

*to the tune of Angels We Have Heard on High*



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## \*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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. Amen!**

## WORD

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

*First Reading: Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

Isaiah 11: 1-10

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

<sup>2</sup> The 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.  
<sup>3</sup> His 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,  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed 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.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They 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.

<sup>10</sup> On 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19**

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

- <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- <sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
- <sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious I name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

*Second Reading: God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

## Romans 15:4-13

- <sup>4</sup> Whatever 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.
- <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For 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 ancestors <sup>9</sup> and 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”;
- <sup>10</sup> and again he says,  
“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;
- <sup>11</sup> and again,  
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;
- <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,  
“The root of Jesse shall come,

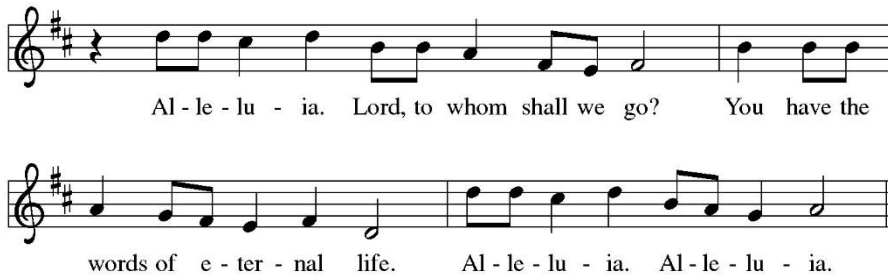
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May 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.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### \*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 142



*Gospel: Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

### \*Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew...  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
<sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This 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.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do 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. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Rev. Stephanie White

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

ELW #255

**\*Apostles' Creed**

**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 the Church

...God of grace,  
hear our prayer.

## \*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

## Offering

*We welcome you to Redeemer Lutheran Church this day! Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering box before the service or at this time. As our tithes and offerings are being collected, **please take a moment to sign the red Friendship Pad.***

## \*Offertory

*to the tune of On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Your bless - ings are im - mea - sura-ble. Our homes are warm, our  
praise you, God, for love, for life, for sav - ing us\_\_\_ from

bel - lies full. We of - fer now our - selves to you. God,  
dark - est night. Now send us forth so we may tell the

use good us an of - y way you choose. We  
good news of E - man - u - el.

## **\*Offering Prayer**

God of light,  
**Our world is a very dark place.**  
**Therefore, we offer these gifts**  
**of ourselves, our time and our resources,**  
**trusting you will use them**  
**to set the world aglow with your loving presence.**  
**May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others**  
**so they may see our good works and give glory to you.**  
**We ask this in the name of Christ.**  
**Amen.**

## **\*Great Thanksgiving**

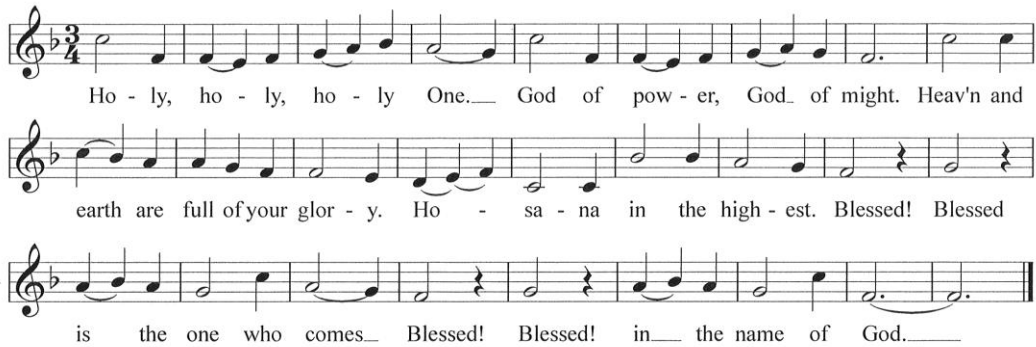
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

At the beginning of creation God said, “**Let there be light**”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God also led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old also kept a perpetual fire burning in the Temple to remind us that God is a light who cannot be extinguished.

Finally Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full of grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. This same light has commanded us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light.

## \*Sanctus

*to the tune of Love Has Come*



In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

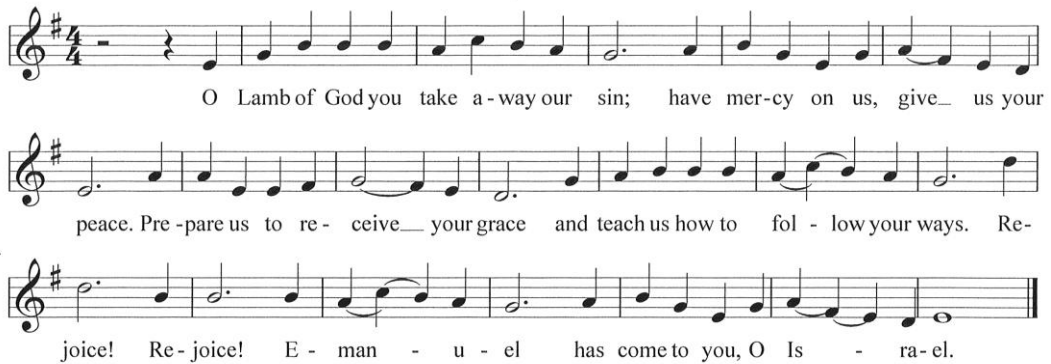
## \*Lord's Prayer

**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**



## \*Agnus Dei

to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



## Distribution

*If you are worshipping with us via the livestream, we invite you to join in celebrating at Christ's table wherever you are, with bread and wine, grape juice, or water, as we remain physically separated yet "together met, together bound by all that God has done" and "the love that makes us one." ("I Come with Joy", ELW #482)*

*If you are worshipping with us in person today, know that all who come seeking Jesus are invited to receive these gifts of God. Please approach the serving station at the front of the church using the center aisle. After receiving the Bread of Life, please take an empty cup before approaching the wine station; if you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please take one of the pre-filled cups of white grape juice from the center of the tray.*

*Our bread is gluten- and other allergen-free.*

## Hymn during Distribution

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

ELW #249

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **\*Post Communion Prayer**

Jesus, our bright Morning Star,  
**we give you thanks that you have fed us well**  
**through the bread and wine of your Supper.**  
**May it enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world**  
**with your love, justice and peace.**  
**We ask this in your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **\*Blessing**

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.



## **\*Sending Hymn**

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*

ACS #905

*All face the processional cross as it is carried from the sanctuary.*

## **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake!  
**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

## ASSISTING IN MINISTRY TODAY 9:30 A.M.

Presiding: Rev. Stephanie White

Acolytes: Gracie Vigen and Haylie Jahn

Ushers: Cecil and Maryel Anderson

Lector: Denice Nelson

Communion Assistants: Jean Helle and Denice Nelson

Serving at the Altar: Phyliss Johnson and Renae Dalen

Organist: Reid Froiland

Cantor: Chris Cuppett

Video: Dave Ulrich

Portions of this order of service are from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB136345.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Portions of this order of service are reprinted by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727128. Portions of this order of service are used with permission under CCLI, License # 21959612 Size B.

Portions of liturgical texts were written and/or adapted by David Eck for the "Everlasting Light" setting of Holy Communion. Copyright © 2011. The words to the "Kyrie," "Glory to God," "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "Lamb of God" were written and/or adapted by David Eck. Copyright © 2011. Used by permission.

## **REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

1300 Nora St. E.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Phone: (218) 681-3390  
Web: [www.redeemertf.org](http://www.redeemertf.org)  
Email: [redemer@gvtel.com](mailto:redemer@gvtel.com)

Rev. Stephanie White, *pastor*  
Dianne Stroh, *administrative assistant*  
Marit Martell, *financial secretary*  
Mike Lundgren, *custodian*  
Jan Nordin, *council president*

Reid Froiland, *organist/liturgist/choir director*  
Chris Cuppett, *cantor*  
Paula Adamson, Greg Dally, and Dean Dalen,  
*staff musicians*  
Dave Ulrich, *videographer*

# *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

Tom Gustafson, Mark & Kathi Jenkins, Tamara Vaughan, Darren Bakke, Shawn Groven, Mason Laidley, Joyce White, Cindy Hughes, Jim Potucek, Rick Harbott, Sara LaFayette Valentine, Michelle Kasprick, Shari Safranski, Bob and Barb Horien, Rick and Tami Hanson, Rose Teie, and Fern Melbye.

## **Financial Stewardship**

**2025 Budget**

**\$329,106.00**

**Needed Monthly**

**\$27,425.50**

**Needed Weekly**

**\$6,328.96**

**Quarterly statements** are available upon request; please contact Marit at the church office.

**Altar flowers are given by  
Rocky and Barb Ammerman in  
honor of great grandchildren  
Noah and Annelise.**

**Week Ending November 30, 2025**

**\$2,110.00**

**Weekly Shortage/Overage**

**(\$)4,218.96**

**Volunteers are needed to read, usher and serve communion.** If you can help out in any of these roles, please fill out a volunteer sheet found on our new church app. Thank you for sharing your time and talents.



**Soulfood Youth Group** for grades 6 through 12 will meet the first Sunday of every month beginning at 6pm with a light meal. Come and hang out, it's good for the soul!

**Looking ahead** Important dates in December 12/14 – Santa Lucia Service – 12/17 Christmas Program – 12/21 Blue Christmas Service – 12/24 Christmas Worship at 4:00 and 10:30 pm

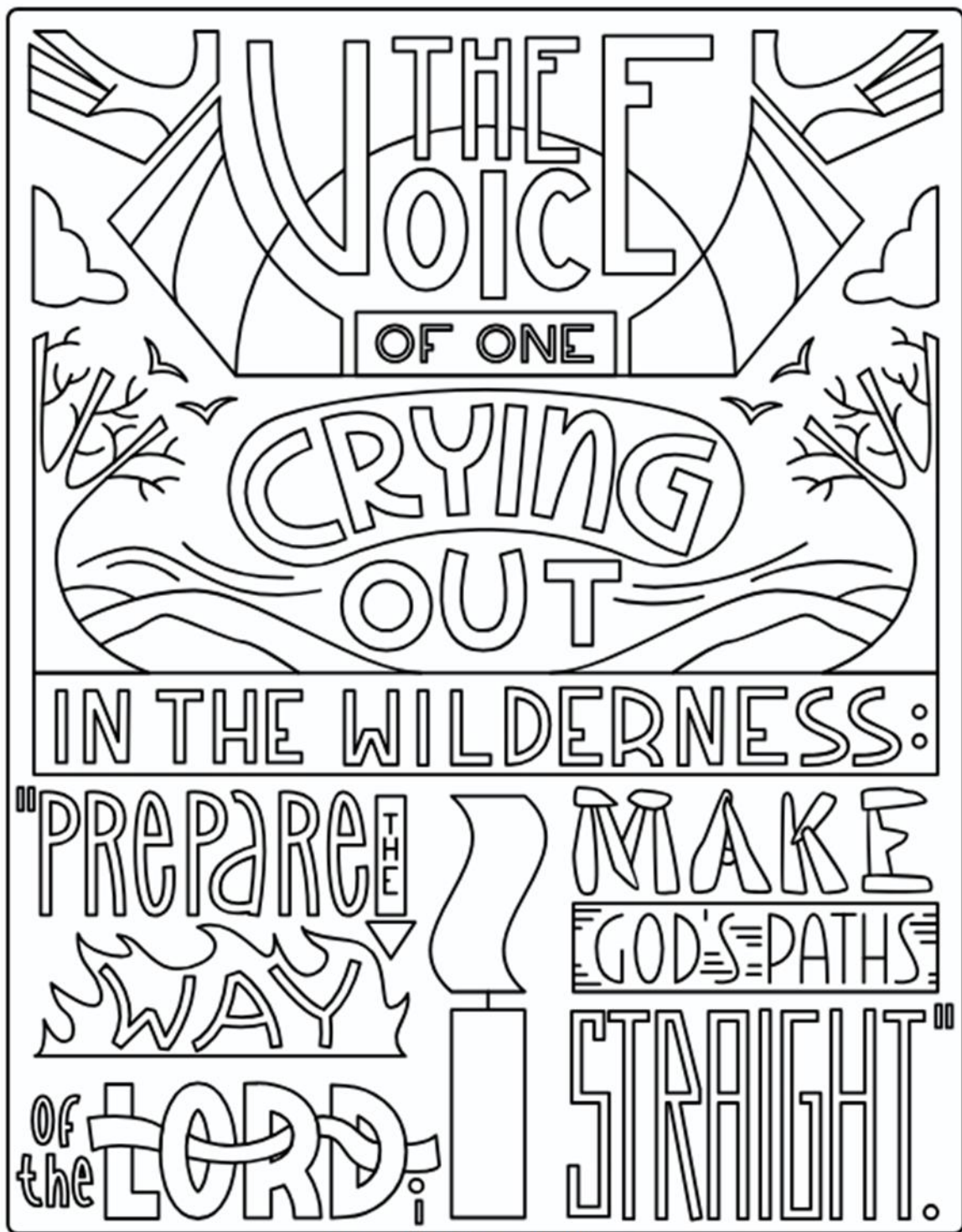


# *December Birthdays*



## **December Birthdays –**

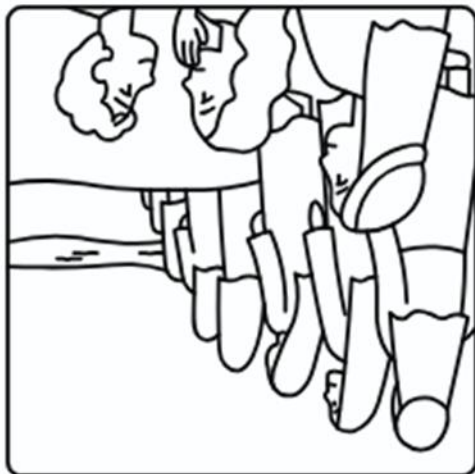
**1 –** Hannah Bugge, Hunter Bugge **2 –** Todd Collins, Jennifer Nelson, Ashley Hesse, David Forsberg, Tammy Swick **3 –** Luke Solheim, Ridge Fisher **4 –** Alexis Dennis, Scott Hickerson **5 –** Ryker Olson, Zane Olson, Kia Green, Mikkel Jorde **6 –** Joel Lunsetter, Harrison Bayne, Makson Landgren, Darrel Cory **7 –** Layton Fuentes **8 –** Blaine Kostrzewski, Patrick Barry **9 –** Gerald Helle, Hunter Miller **10 –** Bev Thompson, Dale Dillon **11 –** Dylan Johnson **12 –** Michael Harstad **13 –** Cory Gustafson, Cody Sele, John Houske, Trent Beito **14 –** Kenny Kain, Anthony McLean **15 –** Paula Adamson **16 –** Alden Haugen, Heather Thibert **17 –** Robby Philipp, Chris Kramer, Adrian Solheim **18 –** Alaina Stokke, Mark Jenkins **19 –** Cash Harbott **20 –** **21 –** Katie Nelson, Lucy Dagg-Savich **22 –** **23 –** **24 –** Jan Anderson **25 –** Roger Philipp **26 –** Reed Waterworth **27 –** Kylie Westling, Nate Stroh **28 –** Corbyn Kertz, Megan Eickman, Wenda Sumrall **29 –** Penny Harder **30 –** Haeli Stokke **31 –**



2. John knew the waiting was almost over, it was time for everyone to get ready. From the wilderness, he cried out, "Repent! Turn around from the path you're on, and prepare your hearts. The Messiah is on his way to save us!"



3. Many people believed John's good news, traveling from towns and villages near and far to be baptized in the river. They wanted to start fresh and turn toward love. But not everyone was sure. Some felt nervous about what this change might mean.



Matthew 3:1-12



1. Long ago, a prophet named John was living in the wilderness. He wore camel's hair, ate locusts and honey, and spent his days preparing for the Messiah to come and stir up peace, hope, and healing in the world.



4. When powerful leaders came pretending to repent, John shouted, "Snakes! Water alone won't change your hearts. God's peace will clear a path. Only trees that grow fruit of love, justice, and welcome will stand tall in the world God is remaking."