



MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169 • 803.796.5948

December 12, 2021 — Third Sunday of Advent
Matins (8:15 AM) & Traditional (11:00 AM) Worship Services

Setting Four—Non-Communion

INTRODUCTION

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Johann Sebastian Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of heaven and earth, you sent your angels as messengers to your servants, bringing news of comfort and joy your plan to heal a world gone astray...

Bringing news of Emmanuel, of , God-With-Us.

To Mary, you sent a message of your favor. You chose her to carry and give birth to Jesus, the Son of the Most High...

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. From now on all generations will call me blessed.

To Joseph the angel gave assurance that Mary's son was from God, and should be named Jesus...

Because he would save us from our sins.

To shepherds among their flocks, angels brought good news of great joy that will be for all people...

A Savior has been born to us; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

To Kings from the east, a star rose signifying the birth of Jesus. When they saw the star they were overjoyed, and they bowed down and worshiped the Christ Child, offering costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh...

We worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and lay all our treasures at His feet.

You have brought us joy through Your Son, the Messiah...

A Savior who is Christ the King.

HYMN 267

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

GREETING

ELW p. 147

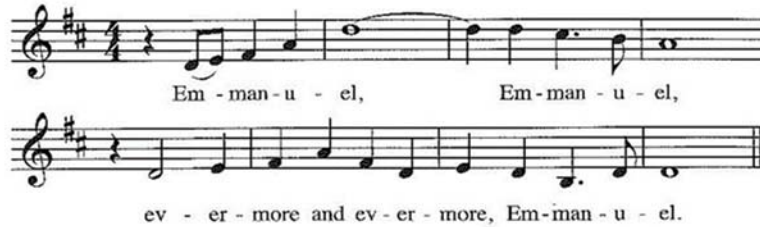
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: PRINCE OF PEACE

(Choir) Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He.

REFRAIN



RESPONSIVE LITANY

During Advent, we wait for the one promised in scripture.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one whose power has no limits and whose strength knows no end.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one whose everlasting light can illuminate the darkest night.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one whose mercy never ends and whose faithfulness endures forever.

And he will be called Mighty God.

Today we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of the hope found in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. The second candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace into the world. As we light the third candle, we reflect on the joy found in serving a God who is almighty, all-knowing, and always present. Continuing our Advent journey, we joyfully celebrate a Savior who brings hope and a God whose power and strength have no limits.

(Choir) Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts his praises sing: powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.

(REFRAIN)

(Choir) Evermore and evermore, Emmanuel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ELW p. 150

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We sit

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.


¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE

Isaiah 12:2-6

Cantor and Congregation WKDavis



God is my sal - va - tion, and I will not be a - fraid.

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. R**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth. R**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹Even 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." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
We sit

SERMON

HYMN 255

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

ASCENSION

CREED

ELW p. 152

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

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

PEACE

ELW p. 152

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (11:00) *Advent Message*

Martin How

HYMN 257 *O come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vss 5 and 6) **VENI EMMANUEL**

5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Refrain, Refrain

REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain

We stand

OFFERING PRAYER

ELW p. 152

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 262 (11:00)

Wait for the Lord

WAIT FOR THE LORD

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ELW p. 153

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.

HYMN 262 (11:00)

Wait for the Lord

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

HYMN 262 (11:00)

Wait for the Lord

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 154

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

ELW p. 154

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMN 250

Blessed Be the God of Israel

FOREST GREEN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ELW p. 155

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

HYMN 248

People, Look East

BESANCON

DISMISSAL

ELW p. 155

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn

Johann Gottfried Walther

Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

Altar Flowers. Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Sharon Mattern in memory of David Mattern's birthday on December 20th.

Bulletin Covers. Today's Bulletin Covers are given to the glory of God by the late Penny Timmerman in honor of Pastor Rus Stilwell's birthday on December 13th.

Advent Wreath. Today's Advent Wreath is given to the glory of God by Sharon & Sarah Mattern in honor and memory of all of their loved ones.

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Emily Addy, Jackson Burton, Trad Burton, Tyler England, Rylee Jacobs, Sybil Kennedy, Koy McCullough, Cheryl Prim, Sharon Rogers, Gerald Shealy, Curren Taylor, Kylie Wilson.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Murray Hoskins, Robert Cromer, Boyd Steele.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Nancy Allen, Elmer Sundlie, Herman Bouknight, Gale McLeod, Barbara Stilwell, Jeanie Jacobs, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston, Boyd Steele, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Lisa Long.

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Pam Player, Lori Gladiness, Wickey Shumpert, Robert, Tracie & Harper Hendrix, Linda Goodson, Cole Jacobs, Rick & Jennifer Richardson, Joann Roof, Bill Hunnicutt.

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, John Post.

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Eli McCracken, Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews.

The Family Of:

Juliette Amick Greer, Ann Cook, Elise Harmon.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.

11:00 Service Worship Assistants

Lector

Greeter

Ushers

Communion Assistant

Worship Assistant Coordinator

Harry or Cheryl Prim

Debbie McLeod

Harry Prim, Jack Sox, Foster McLeod

Randy Klapman

Tom Smith

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Vicar Christine Taylor, Intern