

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - Saskatoon

Second Sunday of Advent – December 6, 2020

Zion Contact Information:

Office Hours: Mon – Fri 9:00am – 4:00pm

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Order of Service

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Schaffel Family

Advent Hymn

Prayer of the Day – **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gathering Song: “Christ the Lord”

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’

A voice says, ‘Cry out!’

And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

‘Here is your God!’

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

LORD, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Homily

Choir Anthem: Emmanuel with Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

In Our Prayers: Derwin Hall, Andrea Nostbakken, Nandari Swamy, Martin, Weldeyesus family, Mallory Jess, Wally Cubbon, Cecelia Jurgens, Vibes Paulsen, Neil Taylor, Vi Stalwick, Dale Stalwick, Gloria Hamp, Lena & their family, Adam, Betty McManus, Aaron Froese, Glenn Wood, Borgny Lokken, Samhara & Saraq, Brenda Smith, Robert Reid, The Jahnke Family, Slind Family

Announcements:

Zion's Christmas Outreach 2020 - The Mitten Tree is set up in the narthex and there is also a **basket in the narthex to collect items for Interval House again**. There will be printed lists there for you to take and a list below as well. Shopping is difficult for many folks right now so a monetary donation would be very much appreciated!

Please label your donation **Social Outreach Fund**. If you have items you would like someone to pick up, please let one of us know. (Jackie 306-881-2888; Linda 306-683-8671; Lori 306-203-9383).

Women and children

- all sizes
- clothing
- underwear and socks
- shoes, boots, slippers
- pyjamas
- mitts, gloves, toques

Toiletry items

- body wash and bar soap
- shampoo and conditioner
- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- hair brushes

Other

- ear buds
- toys
- charging cords and blocks
- kitchen aprons

Gifts from the Heart – CLWR – we have received a limited number of “Gifts from the Heart” catalogues. We have supported this over the past few years, and it is a focus this year as well. You choose a gift for a person on your list, like a pair of goats or a flock of chickens! You send the money to CLWR by calling (1-800-661-2597) or securely online (www.clwr.org/GFTH). CLWR will then send a card to share with your loved one explaining the gift that was made in their honor. You may also give by using your regular Zion offering envelope; please be sure to clearly mark “Gifts from the Heart” on the envelope. Thank you for your gifts!

There are also Food Bank Advent Calendars available. The Food Bank is our focus during Advent. You may also choose to give a monetary donation instead of shopping; please clearly mark your donation for the Food Bank. Tins of food can be dropped off at the church or Food Bank directly. Thank you for your generosity!

Communion-by-Appointment for Advent and Christmas. Please contact Pastor Ron or the church office to schedule your Christmas communion.

Offering envelopes are in your mailboxes at the church! Let the office know when you need more printed.

The Bible “Book of the Month” Club meets Tuesdays from 12:30-2:00 on Zoom. Contact the office for the Zoom link.

Join Pastor Ron for prayer 10:00 am Wednesday morning by Zoom. Contact the church for the Zoom link.

There is an opportunity to take part in an **“eight session Stephen Ministries course called “Discovering God’s Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts”**. If you are interested in participating, contact Kaylyn in the office.

Committee Reports are due by December 31. Please email them to the office as soon as possible.

Offering contributions need to be in the white locked box by December 31 to be counted towards your 2020 offerings. The white locked box is accessible outside the office using the mail slot.

“Advent Hymn”

Christ, whose glory fills the skies;
Christ, the everlasting light;
Son of righteousness arise
and triumph o’er these chains of mine.

Come thou long awaited One,
in the fullness of Your love.
And loose this heart bound up by shame,
and I will never be the same.

*So, here I’ve waited hope of You.
All my soul’s longing through and through
And Dayspring from on high be near,
and Daystar in my heart appear.*

Dark and cheerless is the morn,
until Your love in me is born.
And joyless is the evening song,
until Emmanuel has come.

Refrain

“Christ the Lord”

Darkness hangs, the world is aching,
yearning for the coming light.
In His rising hope awaking,
Love has come to steal the night.
In our hearts true east were facing,
toward the coming of our Lord
Morning rising, gloom now fleeing;
Christ returned! His word is true.

As we wait with hope for rescue
Love descends and all is well.
Prophets tell, “Your God is with us.
Heavens gift, Emmanuel”
He is here, but his as lowly
in the poor and mystery.
Where the bread and wine are offered
He is here; Our God and King.

Parting clouds reveal His wonder;
Mighty King in victory.
Trembling earth and rolling thunder,
blazing sun and quaking sea.
Now He comes, our King, in glory;
Saints rejoice and darkness flees.
Rising rays of light His chariot,
Christ the Lord has made us free

On us now the Son is shining,
lifting us to His embrace.
Shame is cursed, no more confounding;
Lift your head and know His face.
Love incarnate, breath indwelling,

now in truth is truth made known.
We are His and He forever
is our God and He alone.
We are His and He forever
is our God and He alone.

“Emmanuel with Come Thou-Long Expected Jesus”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel!
God will come to us one day,
Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Emmanuel!
Free us with Your love, we pray Emmanuel!

Come thou-long expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev’ry nation,
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Come, thou-long expected Jesus
Emmanuel, Emmanuel!
God will come to us one day, Emmanuel!

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

Rejoice, rejoice believers
and let your lights appear
the evening is advancing
and darker night is near
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle
at midnight comes the cry

The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear
The marriage feast is waiting
the gates wide open stand
Arise, O heirs of glory
the bridegroom is at hand

Our hope and expectation
O Jesus now appear
Arise, O Sun so longed for
O’er this benighted sphere
With hearts and hands uplifted
we plead O Lord to see
the day of earth’s redemption
that sets your people free.