



1st Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022 + 9:00 a.m.

Zion-Public WiFi password: Zion54484

Congregational responses are in BOLD.

All are welcome to receive Jesus' unconditional gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Regardless of your church membership or affiliation, all are encouraged to participate in communion or to come forward for a blessing.

Children of all ages are encouraged to worship with the whole community in Christ. Children's worship bags are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Page numbers that are listed are found in the front of the cranberry-colored hymnal on the bottom of the page. Hymn numbers are listed in bold, large print on the top of the page.

If you would like home communion, hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at office@zionstratford.org or Pastor Amy Heinzl at 608.498.5772 or pastoramy@zionstratford.org.

Ministers: All the People of God through the love of Jesus and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

Pastor: Rev. Amy Heinz

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Busche

Organists: Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke, Ryan Huther

Custodian: Rod Huther

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

ADVENT PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Advent candles are lit during this time

In anticipation we gather.

With expectation we wait.

We gather to watch for the coming of the good news
into our world and into our lives.

We wait to see the fullness of God's vision.

O God, open the doors to our hearts,
that this year we may have room for the birth of Jesus.

**O God, as we marvel over all that you are doing,
overwhelm us with so much wonder
that words of praise spring forth from our lips!**

In this time of waiting, let true worship begin in our hearts.

Let our praises rise up to the heavens!

Let our celebrations spread new hope over a tired world!

**Let us gather together all our dreams and our very lives
to worship our God! Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New
Morn”*

ELW 242

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us make our confession to God.

Brief silence for individual reflection and confession.

Lord Christ,

**we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.**

**We confess our readiness to accept your offer of redeeming love
but also our refusal to forgive.**

**We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

**In this Advent time,
forgive us our failure
to respond as we should.**

**Come to us anew, and by your grace, help us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.**

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,
our sins are pardoned.

The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

As we enter this season of Advent,
may the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

ACS Setting 11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Faithful God, you proved your faithfulness to your people when
they cried out to you in distress. Be present in our distress, and
show us how to be faithful to you in the midst of suffering. We
pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. Amen.**

We Hear the Word of God

READING

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:1-2, 17-19

^{1:1} The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see wrong-doing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

⁵Look at the nations, and see!
Be astonished! Be astounded!

For a work is being done in your days
that you would not believe if you were told.

⁶For I am rousing the Chaldeans,
that fierce and impetuous nation,
who march through the breadth of the earth
to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷Dread and fearsome are they;
their justice and dignity proceed from themselves.

^{2:1} I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

²Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

⁵Moreover, wealth is treacherous;
the arrogant do not endure.
They open their throats wide as Sheol;
like Death they never have enough.
They gather all nations for themselves,
and collect all peoples as their own.

^{3:1}A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk according to Shigionoth.

²O Lord, I have heard of your renown,
and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work.
In our own time revive it;
in our own time make it known;
in wrath may you remember mercy.

¹⁷Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,

¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Matthew 26:36-38

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'

³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.'

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON
Heinz

I Can't Wait

Pastor Amy

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lost In the Night"

ELW 243

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Caring God,

we thank you for your gifts in creation:

for your world, the heavens that tell of your glory;

for our land, its beauty and resources;

for the rich heritage we enjoy.

We pray for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,

that we may use your gifts responsibly;

for those who work on land and sea, in city and in industry,

that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors

and marvel at your creation;

for artists, scientists, and visionaries,

that through their work we may see creation afresh.

We thank you for giving us life;
for all who enrich our experience.

**We pray for all who through their own or others' actions
are deprived of the fullness of life;**

**for prisoners, refugees, those differently able, and all who are
sick;**

**for those in politics, medical science, the armed forces and law
enforcement, social and relief work, and for your church;**

for all who seek to bring life to others.

We thank you for your redeeming love;

**may your Word and sacrament
strengthen us to love as you love us.**

God, our Creator, bring us new life.

Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.

Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

Amen.

We Share the Meal

KIDS' GLOBAL OFFERING/OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of hope,

you gave your Son to free a lost world.

You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage.

You give us hope for a future

free of pain, sorrow, and tears.

You promise us a future with you.

In gratitude, we bring you time, talents, and tithes.

**May what we return to you be used so that many others will
taste and see**

the goodness of knowing you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 154

"Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus"

ELW 501

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257

BLESSING

And now, may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Jesus, you truly are Immanuel "God with us".

In this season of hope, may the meal we have shared together nourish us to be your body in the world.

With the angels in heaven we join in singing your praises,
Glory to God in the highest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Amen.

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

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.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG ***"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"***

ELW 244 vs. 1-2

DISMISSAL

We go in peace serving the Lord,

**with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.
Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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