

**Pre-service Music
Welcome & Announcements
Call to Worship God's Joy**



SONG "We Light the Advent Candles"

**We light the Advent candles against the winter night
to welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world's true light;
to welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world's true light.**

Text: Gracia Grindal

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today we continue our celebration of Advent. On these four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Jesus Christ.

We light the candles of the Advent wreath. The candles signify that Jesus is the Light of the World. The evergreens remind us that Jesus is life and brings life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end.

Each Sunday we light an additional candle. As we do, we remember that Christ has come to us. He is Immanuel...God with us. Today is the Second Sunday of Advent – the Sunday of Peace.

Our peace is found in God and Jesus Christ. John the Baptist, and all the prophets remind us that to receive peace, we must be prepared for it.

We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope given to us and for the peace of God which passes all understanding.

SONG "A Candle is Burning" *sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger"*

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease;
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay**

Text © 1986, Sandra Dean

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender mercy of ☩ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.**

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get 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!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

Word of God, Word of Life...Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your ¹land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity ¹of your people
and blotted out ¹all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD ¹God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their ¹hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell ¹in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have ¹met together;
righteousness and peace have ¹kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up ¹from the earth,
and righteousness shall look ¹down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed ¹grant prosperity,
and our land will ¹yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for ¹God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay.

⁸Do 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. ⁹The 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.

¹⁰But 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.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting 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? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, Word of Life...Thanks be to God.

Song "The Bells of Christmas" ELW #298 vs. 1 & 4

1.The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.

4. Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king,
until our song, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, alt.

Kid's Time & Noisy Offering for Austin's Hope

Song "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" ELW #288

GOSPEL of Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,' "

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon Pastor Kristin Ostercamp

Hymn of the Day "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" ELW #249

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

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown,
we pray for peace.

Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world,
we pray for clarity.

Where people doubt your presence and your word,
we pray for trust.

Where people are curious, and await the future with hopeful anticipation,
we pray for wonder.

Other petitions will be offered here.

Most of all, when the world longs for you,
we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.
We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior.
Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

PRAYER AND INVITATION OF STEWARDING OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” ELW #286 v. 1&3

- 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.

- 3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

COMMUNION

BLESSING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “Joy to the World” ELW #267

DISMISSAL

Go into the world knowing Christ and making him known.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Post-service Music

Announcements - December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

WELCOME! ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD EXTENDS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING. MAY YOU BE FED SPIRITUALLY DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP.

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS/ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Kristin Ostercamp Pianist: Laura Rude Organist: Marie Longo Reader: Corie Erickson
Greeters: Landen Larson Communion: David & Diane Lee Ushers: Aaron & Alissa Halvorson
Advent Readers: Zac & Kelsey Johnson family Acolytes: Kayla Peterson, Nora Bruggeman

OUR PRAYERS TO ALL GOD'S CHILDREN STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER.

Especially: Those under a doctor's care, those who grieve, and all who are moving through a challenging season, and for the family of Melvin Stenberg.

ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE Sunday mornings you can listen to the 9:00AM service online. Go to: www.ziontrf.org. in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

BROADCASTS today are in memory of Kory Joppru, sponsored by Dean & Pam Joppru

WEBSITE sponsor for December is Chris, Nicky, Caitlynn & Brianne Ellison sponsored in memory of Joe & Ginny Armstrong.

ADVENT WORSHIP Wednesdays - Supper will be served at 5:30 followed by worship at 6:30pm. Choir is serving supper Dec. 13 - All are welcome!

SEEKING THE STAR- Where will you see the star? Keep your eyes open as a star travels through our building making its way into the sanctuary on Christmas Eve where it will shine above the altar.

WELCA "Christmas Tea" – Dec. 14, 2:00 pm All women of Zion are invited to the annual "Christmas Tea" for fellowship, refreshments and Bible study. Hostesses are Ruth Ostby and Sharon Jorde. Ladies are asked to bring 10 cookies to share with tea/coffee; remaining cookies will be donated to the city for "Holiday Train" treats. Board will meet at 1:00.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK AND WITNESS!

Dec. 1-3 Offerings: \$11,426. Nov. 1-30 Offerings: \$27,643. Weekly Goal: \$6,547. Carpet donations: \$6,310.

VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING –Sign up available on Zion's website or contact the church office.

COMMITMENT CARDS FOR 2024 may be left in the drop box at the back of the church, or mailed or brought to the church office. This morning we will pause during our worship to pray for one another and our congregation as we steward our gifts. Thank you!

All are invited to a Christmas Voice Recital presented by students of Laura Rude~ Sunday December 10th @ 3:00 at Zion. Students from Zion include Julia Rude, Andraya Bakken, Nora Fay, Hailey Halvorson and Brooklyn Leines.

POINSETTIAS If you wish to bring a poinsettia or flower to share for Christmas services, you may bring them in the week of Christmas. If you are sharing the flower in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call or email the church office by December 18th to have it listed in the Christmas bulletin.

Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One: Although the holidays can be a painful time after losing a loved one, they can also be a time to cherish fond memories and traditions. This *Care Note* guides you through the holidays and beyond so that your focus will be on your loved one's life not their death. Please pick one up for yourself from the table in the Narthex. Grab another to share with a family member or friend. *Care Notes* are available in the Narthex and by the Offices on a variety of topics for all ages. They are provided by Parish Health.

Sharing the Peace - Due to the increase in COVID cases and the upcoming flu season, Parish Health would like to return to elbow bumping instead of hand shakes and only verbal messages for the Peace greetings during the church service. An increase in our hand washing is also strongly suggested. Thank You!

BREAKFAST AT AMERICAN LEGION today from 9-12 noon. Free will donation to Christmas for Pennington County. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, cookie.

PARISH HEALTH NOTES - Food safety is important before and after a holiday meal. With turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and side dishes galore, meals are filled with tasty foods. But often those dishes stick around for much longer than a day. And while leftovers are as sought after as the big meal itself, meat and side dishes are only safe to eat for a certain amount of time.

Safely storing your leftovers....the US Department of Agriculture says to keep these tips in mind:

- ▶ Store leftover food in shallow containers no more than 2 inches deep.
- ▶ Refrigerate or freeze leftovers within 2 hours.
- ▶ Set the fridge temperature between 33 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and your freezer at 0 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.
- ▶ Remove meat from the bone, and store it separate from the stuffing and gravy.
- ▶ Make sure you store any meat, eggs, veggies and milk within two hours.
- ▶ Throw any food left out at room temperature for longer than two hours.
- ▶ Discard any food you're unsure of being safe. **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!**
- ▶ Reheat leftovers to 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Whether you enjoy your leftovers as they are or use the ingredients to make new dishes, it's important to keep expiration dates in mind.

According to foodsafety.gov, a website of the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, the following foods are safe in the fridge.

Turkey should be eaten within 3-4 days of cooking. Another option is freezing it. It can last up to four months if frozen within the 2 hour window. Use stuffing and gravy within 2 days and side dishes up to five days after cooking, depending on the ingredients. The main reason to enjoy your leftovers before these time frames is bacteria. It can grow in your food. Bacteria and viruses found in food can cause food poisoning (or foodborne illness). You can prevent food poisoning by washing your hands often and cooking and storing food safely. Enjoy your holiday activities and all the eating we will be doing!!

- God's Blessing and Peace Parish Health

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today: Sunday, Advent 2, Dec. 10:

9:00 Zion HC worship/God's Joy sings/

Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids

10 Coffee Fellowship

10 January Sharing Servants meeting

11 meet at Zion for Caroling

11 Silver Creek Worship

12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

3 Laura Rude Students Voice Recital

Monday, Dec 11:

9 SAIL exercise

Tuesday, Dec 12:

No Faith Community Nurse today

1 WELCA Board

2 WELCA Christmas Tea

5 Parish Ed Board

Wednesday, Dec 13:

No Bible Study

5:45 God's Joy

5:30 Advent Supper

6:30 Advent Worship

7:15 Choir

Thursday, Dec. 14

9 SAIL exercise

12:30 Respite Care

Friday, Dec. 15:

8 Men's Breakfast

5 Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, Dec. 16:

5:30 Wedding at Zion

Next Sunday, Advent 3, Dec. 17:

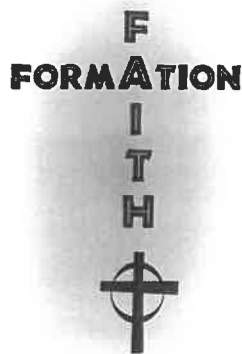
9:00 Zion HC worship/Sunday School Christmas Program/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids

10 Food & Fellowship

11 Silver Creek Holy Communion Worship

12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37



Sunday School— age 3 thru Grade 5 from 10-11 AM

Cornerstone Kids—Grade 6 & 7 meet from 10-11 in the youth room.

Christmas Program—December 17th during 9:00 worship.

Confirmation Students - are asked to attend Wednesday Advent Services. Regular Classes resume in January.

YOUTH NOTES:

Thank you to our families for providing treats for coffee following worship each Sunday.

Please bring 2 dozen baked goods on or before Sunday,

Dec 10: Eric & Bethany Rwegayura, Garrel & Celeste Kinzler, Heather Blumer, Holly Maycock & Philip Nelson

NOISY OFFERING for December will go to **Austin's Hope** - Dec. 10th & 17th

God's Creation Calendars - 2024 Calendars are available \$8.00 each. Limited number available.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP - Join us for breakfast served after worship on Sunday, December 17th. Free-will donation goes to youth programming. Breakfast will be served by 9th Grade students.



CAROLING - Confirmation Students will be going Caroling following Wednesday Advent worship on December 13th.

GIVE AWAY-

Child size tables and chairs from the Sunday School rooms are available for anyone who would like to take them. Chairs are located in the room next to the youth office. For tables, contact Mike Spears. This is the last day to pick them up. They will go in the dumpster following church today.