

Lutheran Chapel Church
Sunday, December 15, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent ~ Christmas Program

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us examine our lives in light of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment, and recite them together.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Time of silence for self-examination.

Leader: Most merciful God,

People: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

People: Amen.

***HYMN** “*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*” (see insert)

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

“He Came Down”

#253

(Cantor sings v. 3, Congregation sings vs. 1-3)

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 35:1-10

Olivia Berghello, Lector

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
 and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
 They shall see the glory of the LORD,
 the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
 and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN *“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”* (see insert)

THE SECOND LESSON

JAMES 5:7-10

William Clark, Lector

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE

“Ransomed”

Pastor Michael Comer

*HYMN OF THE DAY

“Joy to the World”

#267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
2 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
3 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
4 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
2 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
3 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
4 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
2 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
3 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heav'n and na - ture sing,

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: Holy God, we rejoice that your promises take on flesh in Jesus. Grant patience to your church awaiting the fulfillment of your reign of justice and peace. Restore in us the hope that we are called to proclaim to the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Prayers continue and conclude with this petition:

P: You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

Psalm 51

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.

INTERMISSION

*Special Music by Morgan Lily
“Carol of the Bells”*

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

“Good News Ahead...the Signs of Christmas!”

Created by Gina Boe and Barb Dorn

Baby on Board (Walking Music)

Good News Ahead!

Baby on Board

Immanuel with What a Beautiful Name

Kaitlyn Anthony, Solo

Katelyn Baker & Lily Baker, Duet

The Sign of Christmas

One Way to Christmas

Good News Ahead! (Reprise)

BLESSING AND SEND OFF

LCC Youth

CAST

Mr. T.....Elliott Anthony
Sienna.....Baker Sanders
Brett.....Nathan Lily
Kelsey.....Mary Scott Robinson
Karley.....Kaitlyn Anthony
Kids 1-3.....Morgan Lily, Lillian Robinson, William Clark

CHOIR

Elliott Anthony

Jordan Hoffman

Kaitlyn Anthony

Luke Hoffman

Katelyn Baker

Morgan Lily

Lily Baker

Nathan Lily

Wesley Baker

Christian Mull

Cameron Bell

Isabella Mull

Corbin Brown

Lillian Robinson

Hunter Clark

Mary Scott Robinson

William Clark

Renwick Royston

Bram Comer

Baker Sanders

Elena Hoffman

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Wanda Anthony

Craig Thornburg

Amy Brown

Ryan Thornburg

Lisa Burch

Jeanette Myers

Amy Carpenter

Roger Myers

Chris Clark

Harry Swindler

Debra Hoffman

Mason Swindler

Elyse Hoffman

Kim Rundzieher

Matt Hoffman

All Committees who helped with today's program and meal.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 crown you with light, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing,
 be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
 Music: © Estate of Eilshed Bancroft, B. Burrows, Executor.

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DAILY PRAYER

EACH MORNING AND EVENING, PRAY TO THE LORD. (Psalm 1:2) A prayer list, daily lessons to read the Bible together each year, and a song of praise are below. The “*Our Daily Bread*” devotional is available as a booklet, an app in eBook format, daily e-mail, or podcast. Visit odb.org/subscribe. Fill out a prayer card to share or notify the church office with concerns.

PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Braylon Beam, B.T. Bradley, Donna Carpenter, Jerry Carpenter, Sharon Carpenter, Hunter Clark, Tonya Dowdy, Braxton Finch, Kathy Finch, Jerry Fogle, Robert Park, Betty Petty, Barbara Robinson, and Bill Robinson.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Ruth Benoy, Jeff Coffey, Amelia Edwards, Heath Hasket, Michael Hobbs, Travis Hogue, Ernie Kincaid, Harry Nicholson, Sam & Lara Raisanen, Martin Salois, Emmalyn Reeder, Pastor Peter Setzer, Mary Ann Sheridan, Sharon Slessman, Charlene Sorenson, Betty Webb, Dana Williams, Hannah Wilson, and Lulu Zizak.

WEEK 51: DECEMBER 15, 2019 to DECEMBER 22, 2019

12/15 Morning Reading: Revelation 6—Evening Reading: Amos 1, 2, 3

12/16 Morning Reading: Revelation 7—Evening Reading: Amos 4, 5, 6

12/17 Morning Reading: Revelation 8—Evening Reading: Amos 7, 8, 9

12/18 Morning Reading: Revelation 9—Evening Reading: Obadiah

12/19 Morning Reading: Revelation 10—Evening Reading: Jonah

12/20 Morning Reading: Revelation 11—Evening Reading: Micah 1, 2, 3

12/21 Morning Reading: Revelation 12—Evening Reading: Micah 4, 5

12/22 Morning Reading: Revelation 13—Evening Reading: Micah 6, 7

Song Of Praise

“Joy to the World”

ELW

#267

Next Sunday, DECEMBER 22, 2019:

8:30 Service with Holy Communion: Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-8 ~

“Last Judgement and the New Heaven and New Earth”

Children’s Message: *“The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant”* (1 Samuel 17)

10:30 Service: Matthew 1:18-25 ~ *“Joseph, Guardian of our Lord”*

PARISH NEWS

WHAT IS THE ADVENT WREATH? In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in the Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer. Bible studies for each Advent word are provided in the narthex (source: BibleProject.org; Presbyterianmission.org).

JANUARY NEWSLETTER: Articles for the January newsletter are due! Please email articles to Kim at churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org or call the office with the information as soon as possible. Thank you!

SERVING AT LCC: The Worship and Music committee is in the process of setting up the Communion Assistants and Presenters for 2020. If you would like to be added to the list, please let us know by indicating on the **yellow insert** as to how you would like to serve or you can call Patsy Lindler at (704) 460-3229. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

CARE BAGS FOR THOSE IN NEED: When you see someone asking for money at a busy intersection it is a tough spot. As followers of Jesus, we are called to help and give (Luke 6:30-31). However just giving money can actually hurt someone rather than help them, especially if there is a drug or alcohol addiction present. A care bag may be an option depending on your discernment at the time. This gift offers food, hygiene items, and a flier with ministry contacts that can help in more permanent ways. Never tire in doing what is right (2 Thessalonians 3:13). Items for the care bags include: Gospel tract, referral list, small water bottles, Lance crackers, granola bars, dried fruits such as raisins, wipes, mouthwash, toothbrush, deodorant, socks. If you would like to help, please give such items in the box located in the educational building outside the church office. Our Outreach team or youth will assemble as gifts are received.

2019 LCC CONTRIBUTIONS: It's time to get your 2019 Church Contributions up-to-date. All donations to the church must be turned in by December 29 to be properly credited to your account for the year.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Offering envelopes for 2020 are available for pickup in the hallway outside the nursery in the Education Building.

2020 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: There are several weeks available on the altar flower calendar: March 1, March 15, April 19, October 25, November 1, November 8 and November 22. If you'd like to sign up for one of these dates, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-864-5242.

GIRL'S NIGHT: All ladies of the church are invited to the home of Katherine Sanders on Tuesday, **December 17th at 7pm**. Please bring an appetizer or dessert and a gift (no more than \$20) to share. Looking forward to a night of good food and fellowship. Please contact Amy Carpenter or Katherine Sanders for more information.

CLOTHING CLOSET: The Clothing Closet will be **OPEN** on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. If you know of anyone in need of clothing please let them know.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: All are invited to a Christmas concert and singing at the home of Pastor Peter and Nancy Homovich (1293 White Pond Dr., Gastonia) on **Saturday, December 21** from 7:00 to 9:00. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket!

CHURCH OFFICE: The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2019

Sun-15 8:30 am Early Service with Holy Communion (Memorial Chapel)
9:00 am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
9:15 am Opening for Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Children's Christmas Program (Family Life Center)
11:45 am Christmas Luncheon
4:00 pm Wind Ensemble
5:00 pm Roots Outing to McAdenville
6:00 pm Chancel Choir
8:00 pm Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)

Mon-16 8:30 am Preschool
9:00 am Dirty Collar Workers

Tue-17 8:30 am Preschool
10:30 am Clothing Closet Work Day
7:00 pm Girl's Night at the home of Katherine Sanders

Wed-18 8:30 am Preschool
5:30 pm Sprouts
5:45 pm Hand Bells
7:00 pm Advent Service
7:45 pm Chapel Voices

Thur-19 8:30 am Preschool
10:45 am Preschool Christmas Luncheon (Family Life Center)
10:00 am Prayer Ministry (Scout Hut)

Sat-21 10:00 am Clothing Closet Open

BOLD indicates not a regular weekly event.

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations for the week.

