

Worship Plan for Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Zion Lutheran Church



WELCOME

+Welcome! On behalf of Zion, a special welcome to our guests, friends, neighbors, and family. Your presence enriches this community in so many ways. We are glad you are here.

+ For today's worship, you need bread & wine, as well as your Advent wreath, as we will light the first candle. During the prayers of the people, you will be invited to put any prayer requests in the chat box.

+ This Sunday, we move into the season of Advent and a new church year. Our first text for Advent is a challenging one - we are urged by Jesus to keep alert. What does it mean to keep alert when we are already anxious and on edge, when many struggle to rest and sleep? What might it mean to keep alert for *Good News*?

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

For the four Sundays in Advent, you are invited to create a home Advent wreath – greens with four candles around the perimeter and one in the center. Each Sunday, we will light a new candle, led by one of our middle or high school students and their families.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel -- verse 1
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive
Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Litany

L1: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L2: We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L1: We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields. O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L2: We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us. O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L1: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

You are invited to light the first candle

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel—verse 3
O Come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The following confession comes from Zion! This confession was written by Zion members and friends who participated in our forgiveness study.

P When we stand before God and one another, we do not do so as perfect people. Here, in this community, you do not have to hide your brokenness, your shame, your sorrow, or your wounds. Here, you are invited to speak aloud the truth of who you are, and in that speaking, to hear how desperately God loves you.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God of grace,

C **We come to you as a broken and messy people, unable to heal ourselves. We come to you as a busy and distracted people, unable to see the needs of others.**

We come to you as wounded people, wounding others through the things we have done and not done, the things we have said and not said. We confess that we turn away from your love and find it hard to love as you love.

We confess that we underrate your forgiveness and overrate our own.

We confess that we do not see others in your image.

Forgive us for the ways we fail to be your love in the world.

P Friends in Christ, God already knows, God already sees, and God already loves and forgives you. You are God's beloved child, and nothing can change that. Let the love of God settle deeply into your bones and turn you to be that love for the world.

C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

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;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, 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.

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection
awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until
the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

We speak responsively the words of Psalm 80

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up on the cherubim.
in the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call up on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from First Corinthians.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been

strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

SOLO

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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 OF INTERCESSION

P You are now invited to put any prayer requests in the chat box – joys and thanksgivings, or needs and sorrows.

On this first Sunday of the church year, let us pray that God comes quickly to this weary world; we respond to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Come to help us."

A God of the sparrow, God of the whale, protect your creation, whether wild or farmed or tame. Restore devastated habitats and polluted waters. Calm the storms that devastate the coasts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it.

Stir up your strength, O God.

C **Come to help us.**

A Mighty Fortress, protect all people who are poor or oppressed. Grant that the leaders of nations respond with justice and relief to those who suffer. We pray especially for the people of Honduras. Bless all elected officials as they assume new leadership roles.

Stir up your strength, O God.

C **Come to help us.**

A Beautiful Savior, abide with us during this Advent season. Give your beauty to our holiday preparations in this challenging season and your grace to the many who have little to celebrate this year.

Stir up your strength, O God.

C **Come to help us.**

A Mothering God, visit with your power any who are homeless or unemployed, and all who are hungry. Protect children from all manner of abuse. Comfort those who live with chronic pain, anxieties, and addictions. Sustain medical workers, and provide for hospitals and clinics. Heal the sick, accompany the dying, and comfort the mourners. We pray especially for especially Gladys, Joyce, Kathy, Ellie, Gene, Harold, Nora, Irene, Lynette, Tina, Wyatt, Marian, the family of Leo, the family of Evelyn. Shape us to become your arms of mercy.

Stir up your strength, O God.

C **Come to help us.**

P Rock of ages, form us into a people close to your heart, and receive now our petitions:

Read petitions from chat box

Stir up your strength, O God.

C **Come to help us.**

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

Zion is receiving offerings by the Tithely app or by mail:

Zion Lutheran Church

3606 Beauchamp

Houston, TX 77009

Benevolence for November will benefit Fisher House.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

**C God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P 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

P Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

You are invited to receive the bread and wine with the words “The body of Christ given for you” and “The blood of Christ shed for you”

TABLE BLESSING

P Now that you have tasted the goodness of God in bread and wine, let us be the body of Christ, blessed and broken for the whole world.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING SONG

Soon and Very Soon



- 1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL & PEACE

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God, (*and WE WILL*)**

A Please share the peace with one another.