

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Welcome & Announcements



Memorial Garden – We are searching our members and friends to find information on anyone who's remains have been buried in our Memorial Garden. Please contact Astrid Ottey or Pastor Bill if you have

any information. We are updating our Memorial Garden records.

Christmas Worship – On December 24th we will have a 5pm Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion. On Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day at 10 am we will celebrate a Service of Carols and Holy Communion. Come and join us as we celebrate Our Savior's Birth.

Carols, Hot Chocolate & Christmas Tree Lighting – Dec. 17th at St. Peter's. All are welcome.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. (Silence for reflection)

God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

Advent Candle Lighting

We light this third candle of our Advent Wreath that invites us to embrace the true Light of Christ and the joy for our world that Christ brings us! We pray that our hearts and our world may once again be recreated by the power of God that dwells among us!

The Third Advent Candle is lighted!

ADVENT HYMN - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide
our way. **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

An Ancient Advent Prophecy - Isaiah 35:1-10

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.

The Word of God for us...**Thanks be to God!**

OPENING PRAYER - Father, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of our third candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of joy. Help us all to walk as your children bringing your grace and mercy wherever we go. We pray through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 146:5-10

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**



A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6 – Glory to You, O Lord!

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord...Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

REFLECTIONS

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Prayers for the People - Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERTORY

Offering Prayer - Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

*[Ushers will escort you to the Communion Rail to receive.
After receiving the wafer, (GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE)
you will be able to take a small cup of wine (red) or grape
juice (white) from a tray. Deposit the empty cup in
the basket. Then return to your seat.]*

OUR QUIET TIME IN COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

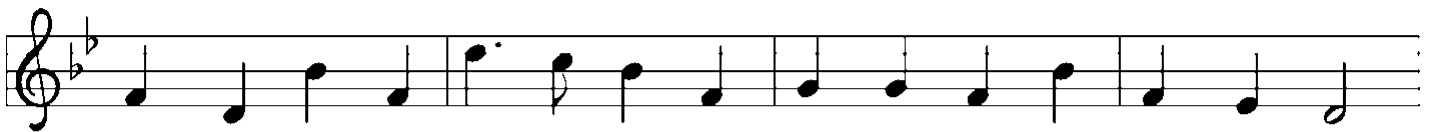
Prayer after Communion - Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

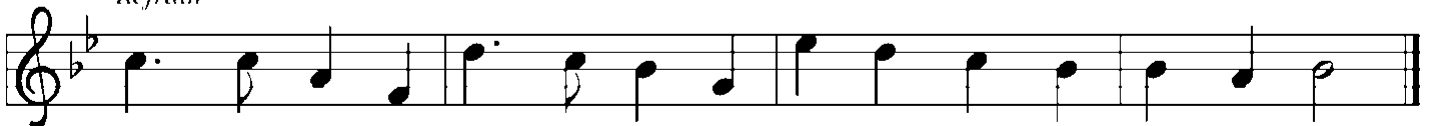


- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



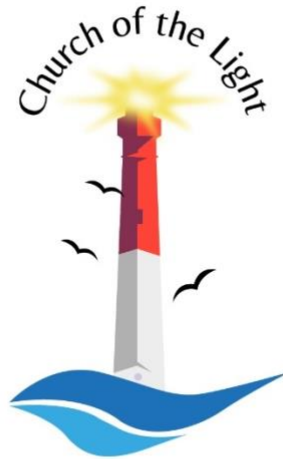
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Benediction Hymn: May God's Blessing

**May God's Blessing surround you each day,
As you trust God and walk in his ways.
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Barnegat Light NJ

18th Street & Central Ave. Barnegat Light, New Jersey
609-494-8676

The Rev. William McGowan, Pastor - 484-798-3929
zionchurchlbi@gmail.com – zionlbi.com

***"God calls us to share our faith in Christ
with the community in all seasons."***