

**Zion Lutheran Church
Glen Rock, PA
First Sunday of Advent
ELW Service of the Word
Sunday, November 29, 2020**

*We stand as we are able.

Introduction to the day

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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.

Amen

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen, amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
 stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**⁴O LORD God of hosts,
 how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
 the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
 give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON AND CHILDREN'S TIME

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen

***APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, we confess our faith.

**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**

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

***BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

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.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen

POSTLUDE

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Today's altar flower arrangement is presented in memory of Donald Batchelor, by Donna Price.

Today's second altar flower arrangement is presented, by the Shepperd family, in memory of Mardella Shepperd, who died on Monday, November 23, 2020. The family would like to thank the members of Zion for their outreach of love and friendship over the years. Zion, the choir, and the music program at Zion were such an important part of Mardella's life for many years.

SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 12/6/20

Isa 40:1-11, Ps 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pam Bennie, Mary Bailey, Frank Bowles, Christopher, Loni Clark, Roman Davis, Brian Dell, Linda Eichelberger, Betty Gaither, Kathy Gardner, Van Gardner, Irene Grogan, Nancy Heltzel, Shannon Hildebrand, Andy Hill, Linda Kowalewski, Don Miller, Jim Ream, Susan Scheungrab, Dave & Shirley Seitz, Susette Stallard, Dave Swartz, Bonni Whitman, Earl Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Loose Change Sunday. November's loose change collection will benefit the Arthur Hufnagel public library of Glen Rock.

Mardella Shepperd passed away on Monday, November 23, 2020. A graveside service will be held at Zion's cemetery on Tuesday, December 1st at 1pm. Please keep the family and friends of Mardella in your thoughts and prayers.

CHRISTMAS...a time for giving and sharing! The Christian Education Committee, with Council's blessing, WILL be collecting Gifts of Warmth again this year (hats, scarves, mittens, etc) to adorn our Christmas tree, which, due to the pandemic, will be set up in the sanctuary in the vicinity of the choir loft. **The tree will be set up by the first Sunday in Advent (Nov. 29) through January 3, 2021.** Although all donations for children, teens, women, and men are greatly appreciated, there is a great need for hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for men, particularly large sizes. All donations will be delivered to the Salvation Army in York at the end of the collection period. As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, let us remember the true spirit of the season and share God's bountiful blessings. We ask that there be social distancing when placing the articles on the tree, and to leave the sanctuary afterwards. We understand that these are difficult times and that donations may not be as fruitful this year. In speaking with a representative of the Salvation Army, they were thrilled to learn that we will be continuing this tradition and remember Zion with grateful hearts. Questions may be directed to any member of the committee: Lois Goodling, Jeff Hoffman, Pam Hoffman, Bill Ream, Gloria Ream, Jim Ream, Pam Spangler, Bev Reindollar, chair, Evelyn Roser.

The church office hours will be modified throughout the rest of November and in December. The office will be closed on Wednesday, 12/2; Wednesday 12/9; Wednesday, 12/16; Wednesday, 12/23; Thursday, 12/24; Friday, 12/25; Wednesday, 12/30; Thursday, 12/31 and Friday, 1/1.

As mentioned in a recent update from Council, we are going to start providing communion elements for the homebound on the first and third Sundays of the month. December 6th will be the first Sunday the elements will be available. Please contact the office at 717-235-3276 or office@zionglenrock.org to request communion elements be delivered to you. This will be a no contact delivery.

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, 12/13/2020, immediately after worship. There are two items on the agenda for the meeting: 1) vote on the 2021 Proposed Budget and 2) vote on the purchase of a monitored central station fire detection system, with a quote of \$10,600.00.

The Visitation Team would like to collect items for Zion's VIPs. Although the team will not be able to visit with the VIPs, approval has been given to drop off goodie baskets for them. The team is in need of packs of peanut butter and cheese crackers, homemade or prepackaged cookies, candy kisses or other chocolate. Cards and goodies can be placed in the back of the sanctuary near the bulletins and offering plate. Christmas cards and goodies will be collected until Sunday, December 6th. Cards for Tanya Krout must be sent directly to her, in plain white envelopes, at:

Smart Communication/PADOC

Tanya Krout/006199

SCI Cambridge Springs

PO Box 33028

St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Zion's other VIPs include: Norma Innerst, Joyce Bosley, Paul Shepperd, Peg Fritz, Dorothy Lentz, LeMos & Susie Stallard, Bob & Mary McCullough, and Dave & Shirley Seitz.

Although some members of Zion have been listed specifically for Christmas cards and goodie baskets, you are encouraged to reach out to any members of Zion who have for one reason or another chose not to attend in-person Sunday worship. As Pastor Paul mentioned several weeks ago, the body of Christ is still the body of Christ, even if it appears to look different in these challenging times. (There are a few copies of Zion's Friends and Family Directory on the windowsill near the offering plate and bulletins, at the back of the sanctuary.)

Upcoming Lectors:

Nov. 29 – Bill Ream

Dec. 6 – Diane Bortner

Council Offering Duty:

November – Bill Ream and Joy Keller-Brown

December – Tom Bailey and Edgar Davis

Upcoming Communion Sponsors:

Dec. 6 – Dave & Shirley Seitz

Dec. 20 – Sandy Fair

Dec. 24 – Carrie Miller/Donna Price

Jan. 3 – Clay & Linda Beegle

Jan. 17 – Clay & Linda Beegle

Feb. 7 – Sandy Fair

Feb. 21 – Evie Roser

Remote worship options are available. Recorded services and other virtual fellowship opportunities are available on Zion's Remote Worship web page at <https://zionglenrock.org/worship/remote-worship>.

If you desire pastoral care or conversation, please contact Pastor Katie Brantner at 717-420-0779.

PERSONNEL here at ZION

Pastor Paul Haack, Stated Sunday Supply Pastor

Pastor Katie Brantner, Interim Pastoral Care Coordinator.....717-420-0779

Darryl Engler, Organist

Brenda Davis, Administrative Assistant

Natalie Walker, Custodian

Chad Fisher, Sexton.....717-235-3641

Joy Keller-Brown, Council President.....717-235-7044

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joy Keller-Brown, Donna Price, Bill Ream, Tom Bailey, Susan Hengst, George Brown, Carrie Miller, Edgar Davis and Gevene Harden

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday, 9:30am-12:30pm

(see announcement for modified hours during November and December)

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