

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 15 S 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Church Website: www.zionharrisburg.org

December 13, 2023 WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm Service of the Word

Advent & Christmas with the Saints

Week 3: Lucia, Martyr & Special Music

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

L: The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 33:14)

C: Amen.

Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Confession and Forgiveness

L: The Lord proclaimed, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking for forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord and the things which we have neglected. (Malachi 3:1)

(Silence for personal confession)

L: God of grace,

C: we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. Prepare our hearts to follow Jesus in doing your holy will. Forgive us, we pray, and shape our lives according to the cross of Christ who has called us to walk in his ways. Restore us to a right relationship with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: In the name of Jesus, God's only Son who came to do the will of his Father, you are forgiven. By Christ's holy sacrifice your sins are wiped clean and you are made right with our heavenly Father. Rejoice in this free gift and take it to heart.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Carol

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born King!'

Lighting the 3rd Candle on the Advent Wreath

L: Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Psalm 31:3-5 (ESV)

For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;
you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

Luke 2:8-14 (KJV)

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray: O Almighty God, by whose grace and power Your holy martyr Lucia triumphed over suffering and remained ever faithful unto death, grant us, who now remember her with thanksgiving, to be so true in our witness to You in the world that we may receive with her new eyes without tears and the crown of light and life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Brief Reflection

Solo

Some Children See Him

- Doug Long

The Prayers

L: Show us your mercy, O Lord,

C: and grant us your salvation.

L: Clothe your ministers with righteousness.

C: Let your people sing with joy.

L: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world,

C: for only in you can we live in safety.

L: Lord, keep this nation under your care.

C: and guide us in the way of justice and truth.

L: Let your way be known upon the earth;

C: your saving health among all nations.

L: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten,

C: nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

L: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

C: and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

L: *Additional petitions offered...*

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and reach us to pray:

C: 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

L: As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

C: Amen.

Carol

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven an
nature sing.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**