



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Welcome to Worship!

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, a word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent—the first season of the church year—we expectantly wait and prepare for the arrival of the Messiah, our Savior. We wait to celebrate the first coming of Jesus on Christmas Day, and we wait his second coming on the Last Day. During the season of Advent, our paraments (altar decorations) are blue, a color representing hope and reminding us to look to the sky for Christ’s second coming.

The theme for our midweek Advent services this year is “Prepare the Way of the Lord,” words first proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah and then repeated by John the Baptist. Our Scripture lessons come from Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible. This psalm is made up of 22 stanzas with eight verses in each stanza. Psalm 119 is an *acrostic*: each stanza starts with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The psalm contains many different elements and themes, including prayers of praise, lament, vindication, obedience, and petitions for wisdom. May God bless our time together as we come together around these ancient words!

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God’s Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother’s room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother’s room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

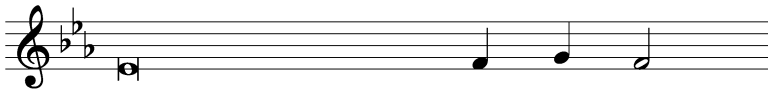
Midweek Advent 2

December 7, 2022

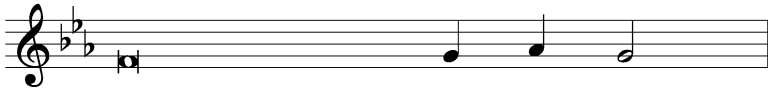
Prepare the Way of the Lord: Through Testing

Prelude

Please stand



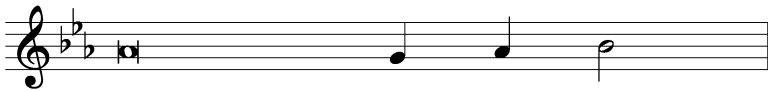
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;



the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



Stay with us now, for it is evening,



and the day is al - most over.



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,



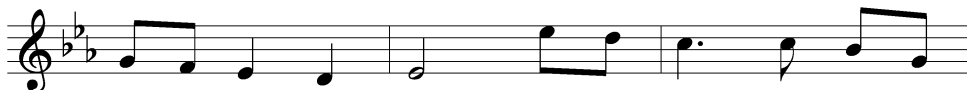
and shine within your peo - ple here.



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov - ing glow of
 2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing
 3 You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry danc - ing



God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
 sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
 star of night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
 hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
 each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us we shall raise our songs to you, God of
 won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that
 a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing



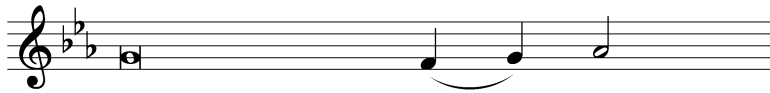
day - break, God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
 bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
 Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.



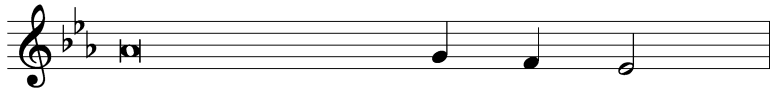
May God be with you all,



and al - so with you.



Let us sing our thanks to God;



it is right to give him thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

Amen.

Be seated

Psalm 141

Refrain



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the



lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

O Lord, I call to you, come to me now;
O hear my voice when I cry to you. *Refrain*

Keep watch within me, Lord;
deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. *Refrain*

All praise to the God of all, Creator of life;
all praise to the Christ and the Spirit of love. *Refrain*

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

Amen.

Reading

Psalm 119:65–72

Do good to your servant according to your word, LORD.
Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.
Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.
You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.
Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,
I keep your precepts with all my heart.
Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.
It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.
The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem (3:30 p.m.)

Junior Handbell Choir

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arranged by Michael Helman

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!

O come, O Root of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

Anthem (6:45 p.m.)

Adult Handbell Choir

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arranged by Linda Lamb

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Text: Public domain

Hymn of the Day

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Christian Worship 362

Prepare the Way of the Lord Through Testing

Please stand

(sung) An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."



1, 3 My soul pro - claims your great - ness, O God, and my
2 You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One, strong is your
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One, strong is your



kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to



weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart. st. 2
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more. st. 3

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Please stand

In peace, in peace, we pray to you:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

For peace and salvation, we pray to you:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

For peace between nations, for peace between peoples:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

For us who are gathered to worship and praise you:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all of your servants who live out your gospel:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all those who labor in service to others:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:
God of mercy, hold us in love.

Help us, comfort us, all of our days:
Keep us, hold us, gracious God. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



Let us praise the Lord:



thanks be to God.



May God the Fa - ther bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our



guide and path, for all of our days.



A - men.

Closing Hymn

Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me
Christian Worship 793

Announcements

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Serving at Worship

Preacher	Rev. Chris Koschnitzke
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Musician	Mandy Treder, organ & vocals
Junior Handbell Choir Director	Julie Handeland
Adult Handbell Choir Director	Kristi Meyer

Worship Notes



- **The Second Advent Candle: The Bethlehem Candle** reminds us of the city of David, the place of Jesus' birth. On that first Christmas night, God's **love** for his fallen creation shone forth through the birth of the Christ-child in Bethlehem.

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org

Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
joshua.yu@sjtosa.org

School Principal

Mr. Dan Markgraf
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