"Growing God's Kingdom"



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20th, 2020 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

RADIO: AM 1700 OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister Andrea Cameron Bob St. Clair Diana Wise Diana Wise & Cynthia Smith Vicar Choir Director Organist Lector Altar Guild

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 20, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as YOU Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE: Lighting of Altar Candles and Advent Wreath [Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.
- C Amen.
- P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Loving and forgiving God,
- C we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.
- P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

bulletin, pg. 9

* GREETING

- P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- C And also with you.

* KYRIE (spoken)

- P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.
- P Christ, have mercy upon us. C Christ, have mercy upon us.
- P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.

"IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR" (VS. 1)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king." The world in solemn still-ness lay to hear the angels sing.

- P Lord, have mercy upon us. **C Lord, have mercy upon us.**
- P Christ, have mercy upon us. C Christ, have mercy upon us.
- P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

- P Let us pray...
- C Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM.....Luke 1:46b-55 (responsively) ^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name.

⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm; and scattered the proud in their conceit, ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy, ⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

SECOND READING.......Romans 16:25-27 ²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

*	GOSPELLuke 1:26-38
	P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1 st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will

give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (vss. 1 & 2) bulletin, pgs. 10-11

Vicar Leister

* APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Hear us, O God.
 - C Your mercy is great.
- * THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)
 - 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.

- * OFFERING PRESENTATION
- * OFFERTORY "Let All Together Praise Our God" (revised wording)
 Let all together praise our God before his glorious throne;
 For he will open heav'n above to give us his own Son, to give us his own Son.

SENDING

- * 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, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (vss. 3, 4 & 5) bulletin, pgs. 10-11

HOLY COMMUNION *

- P 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.
- P 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.
- P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)
- P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)
- P Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C AMEN.

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 - C Thanks be to God.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!

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WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT - J. B. Phillips, Bible Translator (1906 - 1982): I sometimes wonder what hours of prayer and thought lie behind the apparently simple and spontaneous parables of the gospel.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN - If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at <u>sleister@gmail.com</u>.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not "overbooked" in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u> for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at <u>sleister@gmail.com</u>.

THIS MONTH'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for our local Meals on Wheels. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to MOW. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This money comes from budgeted funds that have been unused this calendar year due to the shutdown from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

COPIES OF OCTOBER 25, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE 2021 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2020 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

INFORMATION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE – A plan has been put into place for Christmas Eve at Messiah Lutheran Church this year, in the midst of a pandemic. To keep everyone as safe as possible and to keep families together, our service this year will be a bit different than what we're accustomed to. Our service this year, with familiar overtones, will be completely pre-recorded and posted onto our church website, <u>mlcmifflintown.org</u> and our Facebook page. We request that everyone try to listen at the same time, going to our website to listen to the beautiful music by pianist Justin Aurand of Sunbury at 5:45 PM, followed by our service led by Vicar Samuel J. Leister at 7:00 PM. During the service, you will also hear the sounds of the season from pianist Slone Smith, our junior and senior choirs, soloist Andrea Cameron, and organ by Bob St. Clair.

Our service, as we said, will be posted to our church website, <u>mlcmifflintown.org</u> on Christmas Eve afternoon and you can watch and listen at any time you prefer. However, we request that you try to start listening to Justin's music at 5:45 and watching our service at 7 PM to make it a "more congregational" feel, as we have become used to for many, many years. Bulletins for the service will be posted along with the recording online.

In addition, if someone you know does not have Internet or does not have a good Internet connection, please email Vicar Sam Leister by <u>TUESDAY</u>, <u>DECEMBER 22nd</u> so that an audio CD can be made, bulletins attached, and delivered to those people and shut-ins prior to Christmas Eve.

We realize that this service is in a different form than what we would prefer. However, the health and safety of everyone involved and attending must take precedence this year and we had to think "outside of the box." So, please continue to look forward to our Christmas Eve service as you have in past years, but know that you will not have to leave the warmth of your own homes to participate in the service this year.

From all of us at Messiah Lutheran Church, may God's blessing be with each one of you and the peace of the night of our Savior's birth remain foremost in your hearts and minds this Christmas season.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a

wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

December 13, 2020 Attendance - 14	Other Funds		
		Benevolence	\$25.00
Total Offering	\$4,248.50	World Hunger	75.00
Other Funds	415.60	Building Fund	250.00
General Fund	\$3,832.90	Flowers/Poinsettias	15.60
		Memorial Fund	<u>50.00</u>
		Total	\$415.60

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or gramcynthia49@yahoo.com.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEAL DONATION NEEDS

(These are the foods that are hard for us to get), Turkeys, Turkey Breasts, Hams (3-5 lbs.), canned Sweet Potatoes, and Fruit Cocktail. A donation of \$20 will purchase one complete meal!

ADVENT



CHRISTMAS





10

CHRISTMAS



- - 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unwearied praises be:
 Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
 Evermore and evermore! Amen

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite Tune: plainsong, mode V, 13th cent. DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 87 87 877

PRAYER LIST

Tyson Aurand Carole Baker Donna Barton Lindsey Barton Gary Bechtold **Julie Berryman** Nick Beward Roxanne Boyer Charlotte Burd Andrea Cameron Pam Campbell Ruth Cisney Curtis Clark Randy Clark Terry Coder Leann Crimmel Will DeLancy Guy Dillman Fred & Dot Dowling Renee Dzikowski Neil Fisher Janie Fogleman Jerald (Jerry) Foltz Bentley Fulkroad Joan Fulkroad Michal Gaver Terri Gayer Ken Geedey

Eddi Kay Gill Paul Goss Amy Hart Beth Harris Harry & Jennifer Heikes Sue Henderson Ken Henry Nox Hepburn Jason Hockenberry & Family Curt & Judy Houtz Jennifer Hutchinson Matt Hutchinson Brenda Imes Peggy Inch Doc Johnston Guy Kerstetter Denny King Darvin Krouse Pam Lawson Carol Lyter Anthony Martin Carlen McClure Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler Messiah's TEEM Cecilia Miller Ellwood Miller Larry Miller Shirley Miller Jim Minick Landon Musser

Darve Nace Austin Parker Noel Peachev Dave Phelan Butch & Sandy Pines Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed Mackenzie Shearer Ronald Shearer Bobby & Eva Sieber Mike Sparks Donald Speece Bob & Jeanette St. Clair Clark Simonton Charles Stump Alice Swartz Dorothy Towsey **Rich Walters** Dr. Glen Webb Todd Wert Erma Williamson Jim Woltman Mackenzie Wray Jim Yetter Dorothy Zeiders George Zimmerman Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Bramm Ruth Cisney Max Ernest Margaret Guss Gail Henderson Mona Lawson Jane Marhefka Minnie Minick Edith Nipple Esther Rhine Carol Simonton Sieber & Ona Stoner Ken & Kay Stuck Velma Suloff Kitty Walters Jim Yetter

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE POINSETTIAS to decorate the church in honor of Christ's birth. You

may pick up your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve Service.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

In memory of Tammy Pines Walton by the Walton, Pines and Stoner families.

In memory of Carolyn J. Wieseman and Paul F. Wieseman and Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd A. Pines, Sr. by the Pines and Stoner families.

In honor of our grandson, Braedon Walton, by Butch and Sandy Pines.

In memory of my grandparents by Kenton Stuck.

In honor of my parents by Kenton Stuck.

In memory of Ansel and Jean McNaight by daughters Jane Shearer and Anne McNaight.

In memory of Al McClure by Alice McClure.

In memory of Sue Collins by family.

In honor of my mom, Florence Williams, by Debbie Meinsler.

In memory of my dad, James Harvey, by Debbie Meinsler.

In memory of John & Helen Sieber by George and Kay Varner and family.

In loving memory of my husband, Barry, and our fathers, Wayne Lauver and Samuel Zeiders, by Donna Lauver.

In memory of daughters, Denise and Diane by Herman and Judy Armstrong.

In memory of our parents by Herman and Judy Armstrong.

In memory of Warren 'Dutch' Walters by Kitty, Deb, Cyndi and Bob.

In memory of my sister, Esther Dunkelberger, by Kitty Walters.

In honor and memory of loved ones by Larry and Diana Wise.

In honor of our children, Susan, Carol and Kenneth, by Ken and Ruth Mummah.

In honor of our grandchildren, Harrison, Haley and Olivia, by Ken and Ruth Mummah.

In memory of our parents, Dale H. and Charlotte Henry and Harry and Martha Mummah, by Ken and Ruth Mummah.

In memory of our loved ones, Arlyne and Karen Goss, by Paul, Larry and family.

In memory of Donald Sr., Margaret 'Peg', Ronald 'Tink', Donald Jr., and Johnny Beward by Nick, Bethanie, Thea

and Brea Beward.

In memory of Dorothy and Karen Swab and Rich Fultz by Nick, Bethanie, Thea and Brea Beward. In honor of our Mam-Maw and Pappy Leister by Thea and Brea Beward. In honor of our Nammy Beward by Thea and Brea Beward. In memory of my grandparents, John and Hulda St. Clair, by Bob St. Clair. In memory of my grandparents, Lester and Grace Parsons, by Bob St. Clair. In honor of my parents, Robert and Jeanette St. Clair, by Bob St. Clair. In memory of Velma Suloff by Don and Barb Geedey.

The large Poinsettia was placed in memory of Joyce Yetter by Vernon Gunnion and family.

DONATIONS TO LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE:

In memory of Ansel and Jean McNaight by daughters Jane Shearer and Anne McNaight. In memory of Al McClure by Alice McClure.

In memory of Warren 'Dutch' Walters and Esther Dunkelberger by Kitty Walters and family.

In honor and memory of loved ones by Larry and Diana Wise.

