

First Sunday of Advent ~ November 27, 2022

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Pastor: Rev. Karen Parsh - 814.881.3266 - pastorparsh@gmail.com

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The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

PRELUDE ~ 8:30a ~

10:30a Adult Choir: *Celtic Prayer*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

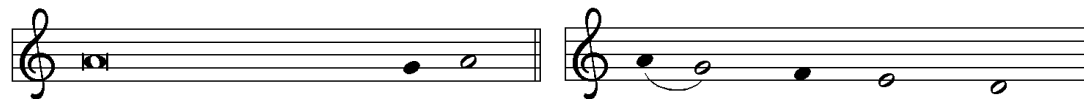
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

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 mer - cy.**



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



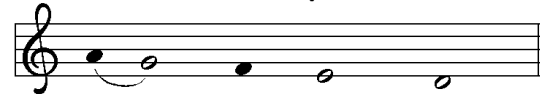
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

ADVENT READING and CANDLE LIGHTING

FIRST ADVENT ~ HOPE

LECTOR: "A Very Matthew Christmas: The Risk of Jesus' Advent"

LECTOR: In a world of where so many despair, God lights a candle of hope in our hearts. We wait together for a Savior, who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord. Hear the word of the Lord:

ALL: *By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.* Psalm 65:5

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE ~ ELW 240 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah v.1*



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:122 8:30a Spoken Responsively
10:30a Sung Responsively Tone 9



¹I was glad when they ¹said to me,
 "Let us go to the house ¹of the LORD."
²Now our ¹feet are standing
 within your gates, ¹O Jerusalem.
³Jerusalem is built ¹as a city
 that is at unity ¹with itself;
⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes ¹of the LORD,
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the name ¹of the LORD.
⁵For there are the ¹thrones of judgment,
 the thrones of the ¹house of David.
⁶Pray for the peace ¹of Jerusalem:
 "May they pros- ¹per who love you.
⁷Peace be with- ¹in your walls
 and quietness with- ¹in your towers.
⁸For the sake of my kindred ¹and companions,
 I pray for ¹your prosperity.
⁹Because of the house of the ¹LORD our God,
 I will seek to ¹do you good."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 24. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN of the DAY ~ ELW 244 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care, especially: Judy, Donna, Sandy, Trudy & Christian, Jo, Karen, Ed T, Sally & Matt, Sharron, Esther, John, Christine, Emily, Dick & Diana, Lew & Jane, Don & June, Norma, the Gresh Family, Nicole, Sam & Dorothy, Judi, Karen, Ruth, Don F, Carrie, Evelyn, Joyce, Jack & Marjorie, Roger & Irene. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please stand.

PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERTORY ~ Emmanuel

Em - man - u - el, _____ Em - man - u - el, _____ His name is
called _____ Em - man - u - el: _____ God with us, _____
_____ re - vealed in us! _____ His name is
_____ called _____ Em - man - u - el.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB of GOD

☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 438 *My Lord, What a Morning*
ELW 260 *The King Shall Come*

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

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.**

SENDING HYMNS ~ 8:30a **LBW 37** *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!* pg. 11
10:30a *Ready the Way v.1* pg. 12

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE ~

GOSPEL MESSAGE ~ Time to Wake Up

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and, ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what's comfortable and "always has been" to what's actually happening right now. It's why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as "wake-up calls." Yet it is never God's intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us. That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. *We won't need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can't raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells. This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.

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GATHERING HYMN: 10:30a ~ *Christ in Me Arise*

SENDING HYMN ~ 8:30a *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!*

SENDING HYMN ~ 8:30a *Hark! a Thrilling Voice is Sounding!*

SENDING HYMN ~ 10:30a *Ready the Way* v.1

PARISH NOTES ~ November 27, 2022

No Confirmation Class Today

**Altar Candles are given to the Glory of God,
In Memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch,
from Carol Wunch**

Please pray for: Judy Johnston, Donna Klakamp, Sandy Pacileo, Trudy & Christian Mueller, Jo Critchfield, Karen Penna, Ed Tropper, Sally & Matt Zill, Sharron Sontheimer, Esther Klakamp, John Litzel, Don & June Morey, Diana & Dick Stoker, Christine & Emily Stoker, Lew & Jane Penna, Roger & Irene Owens, Norma Squire, the Gresh family, Nicole Woomer, Sam & Dorothy Elder, Karen Shick, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Judi Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:30p

Candlelight Service, 9:00p.

No Christmas Day service.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Plants are \$8.50ea. red or white. **Order forms on the narthex table. Last day to return form/payment in the offering plate is today or to the office by Tuesday, November 29. KAFP Donations:** Please have your form/ donation in the **offering plate by December 11** or to the office by **December 13.** (please note KAFP DL dates different than on form)

Sunday, November 27: **Christmas Decorating Begins:** After the 10:30a service. Volunteers will hang outdoor wreaths and place interior candles etc. Afterwards enjoy a warm bowl of chili, and cookies, tea/coffee. The date for completing indoor decorating will be announced.

Saturday, December 3: The congregations of Abiding Hope, St. Paul's, and New Hope will offer a **St. Nicholas Party** for family & friends from **1:00 to 3:00p.** Puppet shows, crafts, games, raffle baskets, therapy dogs, and a visit (photo opp) from St Nick will prepare us for Sinterklaas, the traditional European night when St. Nick rides on a white horse, delivering treats to well-behaved children. The festival is at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3108 Sterrettania Road.** Come and join in the **FREE FAMILY FUN!**

Sunday, December 4~4PM: New Hope Presbyterian, on Washington St., invites Abiding Hope to a **Blue Christmas Service**, a service of remembrance to honor loved ones who have passed. Provide an angel ornament in memory of your loved one and, if desired, include a photo. Ornaments will be placed on the "Angel Tree" in the entrance. Contact Kristin Woodring of New Hope at 814-572-5463 for additional information or to include your loved one in the service.

Wednesday, December 7: **Senior get-together @ 12noon.** Pizza & Salad will be served along with beverages and cookies. Enjoy the Three Kings play and then help put together Christmas gift bags for the residents of Fairview Manor.

Sunday, December 10: **Last day to bring in gift(s)** for the Bethesda Christmas Wish Tree. Please put your gift(s) in a gift bag, **unwrapped.** Wish list is attached.

Monday, December 12: Ladies Night Out this month is a Christmas Party/Ham Dinner at **Abiding Hope, 5:30p**. Bring your favorite holiday side dish to share, a pair new socks to donate and a \$10.00 gift for an exchange with a twist. RSVP by Wednesday, December 7th to Carolyn Hayes at 814-464-3625 or Jacques Holmberg @ 814-864-3797.

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:00p: Please consider joining. You'll find rehearsals go by quickly, and there are a lot of laughs! Ability to READ MUSIC not NECESSARY!

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Offering two weekly Holy Communion services @ 8:30a & 10:30a. The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then post to the AHLC web page. **BIBLE STUDY @ 9:30a between services.** Please check parish notes or our web site for any changes to times for worship or bible study. **No Bible Study this week - 11/27.**

KAFP Project Dignity: Items for Nov.-Shaving supplies/First Aid products. **Donations** in the "cry room".

Bethany Outreach: Remember your gently used clothing, shoes, household items, toys, children's items can be donated. All items are given out without charge. **Donations to Heritage Room.** Thank you for your continued support. Analee Cree -814-397-6168.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-\$20.00 each. Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

Office Hours: Mon & Tue 9:30a-3:30p, Wed 9:30a-12:30p. If the office is not staffed, leave a message, your call will be returned. For **immediate pastoral assistance**, call **Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266.** Pastor is in the office on Tuesdays @ 10:00a or by appointment.

CURRENT FUND REPORT

October Income: \$ 7,628.00 Year to Date Income: \$ 95,448.26
 October Expenses: \$12,828.79 Year to Date Expenses: \$103,884.07
 October Difference: \$-4,329.73 Year to date Difference: \$ -8,436.81
 Year to Date Budget: \$104.039

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ NOVEMBER 27, 2022

	8:30a	10:30a
Videographer	X	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	June Morey
Lector/Prayers	Marcia Santabene	Nancy Cuning
Comm. Assist/cups	Mary Randall	Michele Rion
Comm. Assist/wine	Damion Santabene	Jeanne Tropper
Communion tray	Lois Kuhns	Ed Whitbred
Presenter	Mary Randall	June Morey
Presenter	Analee Cree	Judi Pacileo
Usher	Mike Paris	Andy Saska
Usher	volunteer	Rick Penn
Counters		Dave Cuning/ Lon Jenkins

