

# Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 11, 2022

## Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

**Pastor: Rev. Karen Parsh - 814.881.3266 – [pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorparsh@gmail.com)**  
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A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

**PRELUDE ~ 10:30a Adult Choir: *Come, Now is the Time to Worship***

**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.**

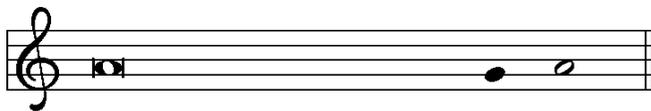
**GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 242** *Awake, Awake, to Greet the New Morn*

**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.**

**KYRTE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



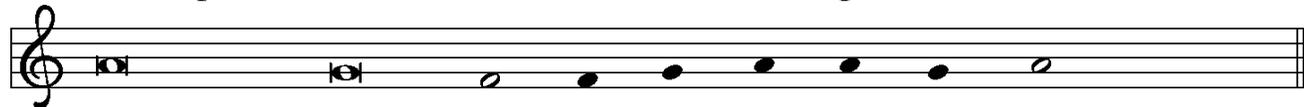
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



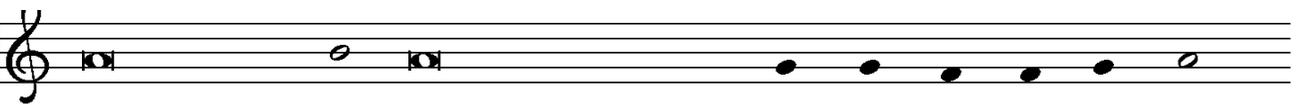
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

### THIRD ADVENT ~ LOVE

**LECTOR:** "A Very Matthew Christmas: The Thunderous Voice of Love"

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

**ALL:** *'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.* John 3:16

### LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE ~ ELW 240 v.3



- 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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

cont'd

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55 8:30a Spoken Responsively**  
**10:30a Sung Responsively Tone 9**



<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will | call me blessed:**  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
and holy | is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on | those who fear you,**  
**from generation to | generation.**  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength | with your arm  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty | from their thrones**  
**and lifting | up the lowly.**  
<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry | with good things  
and sent the rich | away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**  
**to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup>**the promise made | to our forebears,**  
**to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.**

## 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 11:2-11

The gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 11. **Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## SERMON

**HYMN of the DAY ~ ELW 726** *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

## **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.*

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

cont'd

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss, especially: Dave P, Judy, Karri, Donna, Sandy, Trudy & Christian, Jo, Karen, 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. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. 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.**

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



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

**COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 490** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*  
**ELW 262** *Wait for the Lord*

## 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 ELW 239** *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

**10:30a** *Ready the Way v.3*

Refrain

Read-y the way, read-y the way, read-y the way

1 of the Lord. 2 of the Lord.

Verse 1

1. Make straight the road, raise the val - leys, and  
1. moun-tains make low. Turn-ing from sin, let the bro-ken be whole,  
1. and read-y the way of the Lord. to Refrain

Verses 2, 3

2. As we wait for you, give us the strength to walk  
3. Let us see your face; in our hearts we pre -  
2. in your truth, so we may love more like you  
3. - pare a place. Come bring this world your mer - cy and grace  
2. and } read-y the way for you, Lord.  
3. as we }

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

**PARISH NOTES ~ December 11, 2022**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at 9:30a**

Flowers this morning, given to the Glory of God,  
In Memory and Celebration of my Mother,  
from Analee Cree & Family

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

**Please pray for:** Dave Parsh, Judy Johnston, Karri Pacileo, Donna Klakamp, Sandy Pacileo, Trudy & Christian Mueller, Jo Critchfield, Karen Penna, 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.

**Confirmation Class Today at St. Paul's, 11:30a**  
**Next class January 8 at Abiding Hope, 10:15a**

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

**Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:30p**

**Candlelight Service, 9:00p.**

**No Christmas Day service.**

**Sunday, January 1 ~ Lessons & Carols, 9:30a**

**Wednesday's** get-togethers will **continue in January** with the **new LUNCH & LISTEN SPEAKER SERIES**. Brown Bag Lunch @ 12:00n, guest speaker, 12:30p-1:30p. You're welcome to arrive at 12:30p for just the speaker. **January 11 is Abiding Hope's Ed Whitbred. Ed will have an entertaining talk about the history of "Lower Parade Street – Erie's Ellis Island"**

**Sunday, December 11 (today):** This is the last Sunday to have your **form/donations for KAFP** in the **offering plate**, or to **the office** by **December 13**. Forms on the table in the narthex.

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

**Don't forget to wear your "Ugly Christmas Sweater!"**

**Wednesday, December 14: St. Paul's**, 3108 Sterrettania Rd. invites you to attend their "Longest Night" Service of Hope and Healing @ **7:00p**

**Sunday, December 18:** A special **Christmas Play** will be presented **as part of the 10:30a service**. Kids from the congregation in costume, a carol sing-along and live animals! Plan to attend for an early Christmas celebration.

**Wednesday, December 21:** The **Prayer Warrior group**, led by Jerry Vogt and Pastor Karen, **meet at 1:00pm in the sanctuary**. Consider to join in to pray for our nation and the world in crisis, those affected by illness or are grieving the loss of someone, plus other concerns. Additional information, contact Jerry @ 814.504.3566 or Pr. Karen.

**Ruth Hinkson** would love to continue **attending Abiding Hope** for worship, but **she needs a ride**. If any members of the congregation are willing to pick up Ruth at the Regency @ South Shore for either service and take her home, she would be so grateful. If you were not able to take her home, I'm sure someone else would step-up. To check with Ruth to see if she is able to attend a service and make arrangements, you can phone her at 814-866-1528. Blessings, Pastor Karen.

**Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:00p:** Ability to READ MUSIC not NECESSARY! **Please join us!**

**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. Please **check parish notes** or our **web site** for any **changes to times for worship or bible study**. **No bible study until January. Date TBA. Check Newsletter, parish notes, weekly reminder email.**

**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.

**KAFP Project Dignity:** Items for Dec.-Dental products. There is a basket in the "cry room".

**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**

November Income: \$5,401.00 Year to Date Income: \$100,849.26  
 November Expenses: \$10,778.76 Year to Date Expenses: \$114,627.83  
 November Difference: \$-5,377.76 Year to date Difference: \$-13,778.57  
 Year to Date Budget: \$114,007.00

**WORSHIP LEADERS ~ DECEMBER 11, 2022**  
**8:30a 10:30a**

Videographer	X	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	Judi Pacileo
Lector/Prayers	Analee Cree	Jacque Holmberg
Comm Assist/cups	Analee Cree	Judi Pacileo
Comm. Assist/wine	Lois Kuhns	Michele Rion
Communion tray	Lon Jenkins	Connie Vogt
Presenter	Mary Randall	Michele Rion
Presenter	volunteer	June Morey
Usher	Mike Paris	John Holmberg
Usher	Lon Jenkins	Andy Saska
Counters	Andy Saska & Analee Cree	