

# St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S. State Street, Greenfield, Indiana 46140 317.462.7340

*Our mission is: To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.*

**Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Meditation:**

**“From the Heart of God. . .A Sign”**

*Signs! They are everywhere we look. They direct our coming and going. They warn us of what is up ahead. They tell us what is acceptable and what is not. They tell us where the restrooms are...they mark every road so that we can find our way. In our lesson today, the gospel writer speaks of many other signs that direct our attention to the coming of the Christ. Some of these signs bring fear, and anxiety and trembling, but they are pointing to the fact that our redemption is drawing near. Welcome to Advent! Welcome to the heart of God!*



<b>Rev. Doug Gast</b>	Interim Pastor
<b>Joe Faith</b>	Music Director
<b>WORSHIP</b>	
Sunday Worship: 9:30	Education Hour: 10:30—11:30 a.m.

*A warm welcome to all! Let us join together with joyful hearts as we worship today. Extend the hand of friendship to those around you as we give thanks for the blessings of friends and family. May God be with you today and throughout the week!*

# SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1st Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

## PRELUDE

## ADVENT VIDEO

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please Stand*

## INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

P: The promise of God is true from the beginning of time and throughout eternity; our redemption is drawing near.

*(A time for silent reflection)*

P: This season is a sign that Christ is coming soon. Because we can trust the heart of God, we can bring our confession to the one who forgives us.

**C: We confess we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed; by things done and undone. We have not recognized the signs of your coming among us. Our hearts have been weighed down in the anxieties of life and we have failed to watch and pray for your advent in our midst. Forgive us.**

P: God, from your heart we see the signs of Christ who will save, forgive and restore. You gave your son to us, Jesus Christ, whose life, death and resurrection brings forgiveness of sin and eternal life. We praise you! We honor you! We worship you!

**C: Amen!**

*Please Stand*

OPENING HYMN

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Hymn 34 LBW

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on  
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save  
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Jeremiah 33)

A: God, in your word you spoke of the days coming when you would fulfill the promise you made to the house of Israel.

**C: You told us of the branch from David that would execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

A: Your word assures us that we will be saved and live securely in your love.

**C: We praise you for the signs of your coming that are all around us. Teach us how to lift up our heads and see that our redemption is drawing near.**

A: We worship you, our God, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

In the beginning, there was chaos. There were troubled dreams, uncertain sounds, and fear in the darkness. Then, when the chaos was most threatening, when uncertainty seemed the only certain thing, the cup seemed perpetually half empty, and the light at the end of the tunnel turned out to be just our imagination, God said, "Let there be light." And there was Hope.

*[light first Advent candle]*

The light of Hope lifts our eyes and calls us forward in Advent. To our uncertain and timid world, it proclaims brazenly that there is a tomorrow. It asserts that hope for the future is not to be found in improved financial portfolios or better self-affirmation. The candle of hope reminds us that there is something to cling to:

*Please Stand*

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray. Lord, in You alone we put our trust. Show us Your right ways and teach us Your paths. Guide us in Your truth-You are our Savior and we put our hope in You. You make all things new-so renew us today as we prepare to worship and praise Your holy name. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen**

*Please be seated*

### THE READING

I Thessalonians 3:9-13 (pg. 1019 in pew bible)

*Paul encouraged the Thessalonians and thanked God for them. Their faith was lacking, so Paul prayed for them to overflow for one another and be strengthened by the Lord.*

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand*

### THE "GOSPEL ACCLAMATION"

"Away in a Manger"

LBW 67

"Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to say close by me  
forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender  
care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there."

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36 (pg. 905 in pew bible)

*Strange signs will accompany Jesus' second coming. It's important that we stand strong until the end, and not be weighed down by the anxieties of this life. Instead of turning to foolishness, drunkenness, or worry, we should be watchful and prayerful until we can stand face to face with the Son of Man.*

<sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." <sup>29</sup> He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. <sup>34</sup> "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON HYMN

"Everlasting God"

Words on screen

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus

Our God You reign forever  
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus

You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord

## THE SERMON

*Mary Jo Mikulski*

*Please Stand*

### THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### SHARING THE PEACE

### THE OFFERING

Now we join with Christians all over the world in worshipping God through our giving of our financial resources. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. Instead, we hope that we are able to give something to you. We welcome you to give only as your heart desires. For members and friends, the vision and ministry of St. James depends on your giving. We thank you in advance for your generosity. This time of offering is a significant act of worship and we now offer our offerings and tithes.

*Please Stand*

Pre-Chorus

Our God You reign forever  
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus

You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Chorus

You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

## THE OFFERING RESPONSE

“I Give Myself Away”

Words on screen

Chorus

I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me  
(REPEAT)

Verse 1

Here I am  
Here I stand  
Lord my life is in Your hands  
Lord I'm longing to see  
Your desires revealed in me

Chorus

Verse 2

Take my heart  
Take my life  
As a living sacrifice  
All my dreams  
All my plans  
Lord I place them in Your hands

Chorus

Bridge

My life is not my own  
To You I belong  
I give myself  
I give myself to You  
(REPEAT)

Chorus 2x

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Please Stand*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### BENEDICTION

P: Lift up your heads because your redemption is drawing near. Be watchful and prayerful because the kingdom is at hand.

**C: Amen!**

**THE CLOSING HYMN**

**"Joy to the World"**

Hymn 39 LBW

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
poy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE**

**Thank you to Mary Jo Mikulski for preaching today!**

## WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

<b>This Week, November 28<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 a.m. Mary Jo Mikulski	<b>Next Week, December 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 a.m. Pastor Doug Gast
Assisting Minister	Christian Gries	Assisting Minister	Tracy Guffey
Lector	Christian Gries	Lector	June Gries
Ushers	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens-Wooten	Ushers	John Browder Sheila Bryan
Greeters	June Gries Jo Cook	Greeters	Betty Perotti
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	Tina Beck	Communion Assistant	Karen Bell
Acolyte	Claudia Soberalski	Acolyte	Andrew Turner
Sound Technician	Geoff LaFlower	Sound Technician	Christian Gries
Video Technician	Ronald Kissell	Video Technician	Neal Guffey
Bread Baker	June Gries	Bread Baker	Karen Bell
Children's Sermon	John Browder	Children's Sermon	Tracy Guffey
Counters (Monday) Wk4	Maggie Bode Cindy Gregory	Counters (Monday) Wk1	Christian Gries Phil Miller