

St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S State Street
Greenfield Indiana 46140

*The mission statement of our congregation is:
To bring people to Christ,
encouraging relationships with Him and others.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What Disciples Do

November 27, 2022



Meditation: God of hope, I look to You with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for Your word and keeping to Your precepts. My hope is in You.



Today's chancel flowers are in memory of Diana Clements-Scott's mom.



1741 S. State Street
Greenfield, IN 46140
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Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

The mission statement of our congregation is:

To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue Jr., Pastor

TO ALL GUESTS...

- **THANKS** for joining us for worship today. We hope your experience will be one of being touched by God and of being enriched through our experience of fellowship. **Please fill out the Connection Card found in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.** And please come again!!
- **PARTICIPATE**
 - The worship service is printed in the bulletin and can also be viewed on the video screen for your convenience. Bulletins are emailed to all members each week.
 - **Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.**
 - The service is streamed live and available online afterward on YouTube. Links can be found on the [St. James website \(www.stjamesnalc.org\)](http://www.stjamesnalc.org) and [Facebook page](#).
- **COMMUNE** — All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present with his body and blood in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. The ushers will direct those receiving the sacrament down the center aisle to the altar rail. **If you require gluten free host, please let the servers know.**
- **NEED ASSISTANCE?**
 - **Hearing devices** are available for those who have trouble hearing through the loudspeaker system.
 - Hand sanitizer is available on the tables in the Narthex and in the pews.

Please feel free to ask an Usher for assistance, they will be happy to help you.

**PRELUDE
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please Stand

† We Lift Our Hearts in Worship †

INVOCATION AND PRAYER

P: In the name of the Father, the Son (+), and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

C: Amen.

P: Lord of hope, You bless our lives every day. We sometimes forget that all these blessings come from You and we overlook them or decide that we just deserve all the wonderful things that come our way. It seems that every year the push for the commercial holiday expectations comes earlier and earlier. By the time we approach the true Holy Day we are exhausted; we cannot gather the strength to praise You. Make us ready, Lord. Slow us down and help us find release from the demands. Enable us to make decisions that will build hope and community, rather than foster greed and selfishness. Help us reach out to others with gifts of kindness and peace. Enter our hearts, not with demands, but with a gentle reminder of the peace you bring. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

Prayer of Confession (Jeremiah 33, Luke 21)

P: Loving Creator, you call us to rejoice
in your promise of the birth that is to come,
but we are afraid.

**C: You invite us into a world
where justice and righteousness prevail,
but we turn away in fear.**

P: We long for an easy path into your promised world,
but you warn us that there is no easy way.

**A: Birth new life within us,
that we may abide in your perfect love —
the love that casts out fear.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Words of Assurance (Psalm 25, 1 Thessalonians 3)

P: Hear the Good News!

God's mercy and steadfast love endures,
strengthening our hearts and overcoming our fears.
God will remove every obstacle
that keeps us from being the body of Christ.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Have Thy Own Way, Lord

Verse 1

Have Thine own way Lord have Thine own way
Thou art the Potter I am the clay
Mold me and make me after Thy will
While I am waiting yielded and still

Verse 2

Have Thine own way Lord have Thine own way
Search me and try me Master today
Whiter than snow Lord wash me just now
As in Thy presence humbly I bow

Verse 3

Have Thine own way Lord have Thine own way
Wounded and weary help me I pray
Power all power surely is Thine
Touch me and heal me Savior divine

Verse 4

Have Thine own way Lord have Thine own way
Hold o'er my being absolute sway
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only always living in me

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord is getting us ready to receive a gift of great joy.

P: Watch for this gift!

L: Be vigilant and ready. For the gift is about to come.

P: The promise of God is faithful and trustworthy.

L: Watch, wait. The Gift is coming into the world!

P: Praise be to God for such lavish love. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our lives are so filled with chaos and tribulation. Help us be ready to receive your message and gift of love, that we might grow into faithful disciples, serving you by serving others with hope and compassion. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN

Please be seated

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: Today we light one candle - the Candle called **HOPE**, as a reminder that God's promises are true.

Reader 2: We place our hope in God.

Reader 3: We place our lives in God's care.

Reader 4: Come, all is ready. Let the light of this one candle, called HOPE, bring brightness to your spirits.

[The first Advent Candle is lit]

† We Hear God's Word †

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 (page 587 in pew bible)

2:1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2:2 In 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.

2:3 Many 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.

2:4 He 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.

2:5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

P: The Word of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

84

Rev. E.A. Hoffman

A.J. Showalter

Chords: A, D, A, E, A, E

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;

Chords: A, D, A/E, E7, A

Lean - ing, lean - ing, Lean - ing, on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44 (page 851 in pew bible)

24:36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

24:37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

24:39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

24:41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

24:42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

24:43 But 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.

24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

John Browder

Please stand

THE MESSAGE HYMN Trust & Obey

Verse 1

**When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way
Let us do His good will
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey**

Chorus 1

**Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey**

Verse 3

**Not a burden we bear
Not a sorrow we share
But our toil He doth richly repay
Not a grief or a loss
Not a frown or a cross
But is blessed if we trust and obey**

Chorus 1

**Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey**

Verse 4

**But we never can prove
The delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay
For the favor He shows
And the joy He bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey**

Chorus 1

**Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey**

Verse 5

**Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet
Or we'll walk by His side in the way
What He says we will do
Where He sends we will go
Never fear only trust and obey**

Chorus 1

**Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey**

Please be seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR OLDER DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue Jr.

Please Stand

† We Respond to God's Word †

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

C: 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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please be seated

THE SHARING OF 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

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer (Isaiah 2, Psalm 122, Matthew 24)

P: Thank you, God.

Thank you for the wake-up call,
reminding us to be ready.

Thank you for not giving up
on your vision of peace.

Thank you for the opportunity
to gather each week in your house,
that we might encourage one another
to stay on your path.

And thank you for the opportunity
to give these gifts for your ministry,
that together we might help the world
be ready to receive the Prince of Peace,
in whose name we pray.

All: Amen.

† We Celebrate the Lord's Supper †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins
Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: God of our salvation,
we do not deserve your love and yet you lavish it upon us.
Not being content to be apart from us,
you came to us in human form,
becoming flesh and becoming one of us.
You are not a God that is removed from our reality
but is intimately present in our lives and our struggles.
We lift up to you our thanks for your presence among us.
We give thanks for your son, Jesus Christ,
the very incarnation of your being on this earth.

With all of creation, with all peoples in every time and place
we join the everlasting chorus:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: We remember how you called your servant Mary to bear your son,
how you called your servant Joseph to accompany her,
how you called the wise men to search and the shepherds to ponder,
how you called John to proclaim and Jesus to be baptized,
how you called Peter and the disciples to follow and serve.

THE WORDS OF JESUS

With them, we gather on the night on which Jesus was betrayed,
when, after having dinner with his friends, he took the bread,
blessed it and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying,
take, eat, do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise, he took the cup and, pouring it, said,
this is cup of the salvation, shed in my blood, for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

For as long as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the resurrection of our living savior until he comes again.

As we wait, during this blessed rest known as the season of Advent,
we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**C: Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

We give thanks for your gifts of grace,
and ask that your Holy Spirit would come to bless us through this sacrament,
that we might preside with you and you in us.
Hear us as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ extends his table before you.
Gather here with all the saints.

All: Amen.

P: All who would come to Christ are invited to come to His table.

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please Stand

COMMUNION HYMN Special Music

THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

P: Almighty Creator, you began a season of faith when you called us to be your beloved children. That season continues in the turning of the years that we spend serving our Lord Jesus Christ. Through this table may we be sanctified to continue to work in this world through a Spirit-filled life of growth and fulfillment until Christ comes again in his glory. Through every season of each year help us be your people, building your Kingdom.

All: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: God's presence and promises are real. Go now into God's world, trusting in God's love and placing your hope in God. Go in peace.

All: Amen.

† We Depart in Peace †

THE CLOSING HYMN **I Surrender All**
Remain Standing

Verse 1

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

Chorus 1

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 3

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine

Chorus 1

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 4

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me

Chorus 1

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

THE DISMISSAL

P: Following God's saints in the ways of holiness and truth, go in the peace of Christ.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Volunteers

This Week, November 27	9:30 am Pastor Richard Blue	Next Week, Dec 4	9:30 a.m. Pastor Richard Blue
Assisting Minister	Debbie Mowrey	Assisting Minister	Tracey Guffey
Lector	Dawn Hahm	Lector	June Gries
Ushers	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens-Wooten	Ushers	Jim Jackson Deb Jackson
Greeters	Liz Clark Terry Clark	Greeters	Alan and Jeanette Berkshire
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	Tina Beck	Communion Assistant	Karen Bell
Acolyte	Darrel Turner	Acolyte	Luke Stearns
Sound Technician	Dan Ivers	Sound Technician	Ronald Kissell
Video Technician	Geoff LaFlower	Video Technician	Neal Guffey
Bread Baker	Kenya Ostermeier	Bread Baker	June Gries
Women's Bible Study Snacks	Sylvia	Women's Bible Study Snacks	Liz Clark
Slide Creators	Richard	Slide Creators	Sophia Stearns
Children's Sermon	John Browder	Children's Sermon	Tracy Guffey
Counters (Monday)	Christian Gries Ron Westerfeld	Counters (Monday)	Christian Gries Phil Miller
This Week, Wednesday November 30 Midweek Advent Service	7pm- Wednesday Advent Service		
Assistant Minister	Christian Gries		
Lector	Christian Gries		
Ushers			
Greeters	Tom and Nancy Fisher		
Altar Guild	Diane Clements-Scott		
Communion Assistant	June Gries		
Acolyte			
Sound Technician			
6 pm Pre Service Meal Provider	Church Council		