

# 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.**



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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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system contains the lyrics: "Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;". The second system contains the lyrics: "Lean - ing, lean - ing, Lean - ing, on the ev - er - last - ing arms." Above the vocal line, the following chords are indicated: A, D, A, E, A, E in the first system; and A, D, A/E, E7, A in the second system.

**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*

*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

| <b>This Week, November 27</b>  | 9:30 am Pastor Richard Blue          | <b>Next Week, Dec 4</b>       | 9:30 a.m. Pastor Richard Blue  |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Assisting Minister   | Debbie Mowrey                        | Assisting Minister            | Tracey Guffey                  |
| Lector   | Dawn Hahm                            | Lector                        | June Gries                     |
| Ushers   | Linda Hess<br>Wanda Stephens-Wooten  | Ushers                        | Jim Jackson<br>Deb Jackson     |
| Greeters   | Liz Clark<br>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<br>Snacks  | Sylvia                               | Women's Bible Study<br>Snacks | Liz Clark                      |
| Slide Creators   | Richard                              | Slide Creators                | Sophia Stearns                 |
| Children's Sermon  | John Browder                         | Children's Sermon             | Tracy Guffey                   |
| Counters (Monday)  | Christian Gries<br>Ron Westerfeld    | Counters (Monday)             | Christian Gries<br>Phil Miller |
| <b>This Week, Wednesday<br/>November 30<br/>Midweek Advent Service</b> | <b>7pm-</b> 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<br>Provider                                      | Church Council                       |                               |                                |