

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.*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Peace

December 4, 2022



Meditation: Teach us, if you would, how to live peaceably with ourselves and each other. If someone is angry, help us not respond defensively, but to listen and seek understanding. If someone is hurting, remind us how you have consoled us in our affliction, that we might offer consolation to them. If someone is oppressed and needs an advocate, grant us courage to stand with them strong, and clear, and unafraid. Make us instruments of your holy peace. Hear our silent prayers, now, for all who need to hear Good News, to be healed, to be set free.



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



1741 S. State Street
Greenfield, IN 46140
Phone: 317-462-7340
Email: office@stjamesnalc.org

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: Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for the secular festival of giving and parties and the swirl of social events; but we forget that the true preparation is the readiness of our hearts to receive you. Help us look again at our lives and turn them around so that they may be in tune with your will. We ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

Prayer of Confession (Jeremiah 33, Luke 21)

P: Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive Your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from Your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have blocked Your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be Your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that Your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

**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

P: Though the darkness seems so deep, do not fear. God is with us. Repent! Turn your lives to God. God's love is being poured out for you, always. AMEN

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

**God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

**Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him: their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

**His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The prophet Isaiah declared that justice and peace shall come through the family of Jesse.

P: This justice shall be for all of creation.

L: Peace shall be established in all the world.

P: Get ready! Prepare for God's peace to reign!

L: Blessed be God who does such wondrous things!

P: We give thanks to God for this time of healing and hope. 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: PEACE

Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

Reader One: "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV).

Reader Two: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

Reader One: "In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." And "bear fruit worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:1,2, 8 NRSV).

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of **proclaimed peace**, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

Light two candles of the Advent wreath.

† We Hear God's Word †

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10 (pages 595-596 in pew bible)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

84

Rev. E.A. Hoffman

A.J. Showalter

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the piano accompaniment is on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). Chords are indicated above the treble staff: A, D, A, E, A, E. The lyrics are: "Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;". The second system continues the melody and piano accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: A, D, A/E, E7, A. The lyrics are: "Lean - ing, lean - ing, Lean - ing, on the ev - er - last - ing arms." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12 (pages 828-829 in pew bible)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
 'Prepare the way for the Lord,
 make straight paths for him.'"^[a]

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the

coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with^[b] water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Tracy Guffey

Please stand

THE MESSAGE HYMN Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254/LBW 30

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to they glorious throne.

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 11)

We thank you, Holy One,
for all your good gifts,
especially the gifts of prophecy, promise,
and calls for preparation.
As a thankful response to these gifts,
we offer our belief, our commitments, and our money,
that we may hasten the time
when no one will hurt or destroy
on all God's holy mountain.

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- Diane Witte

THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

P: God of conception, God of Christmas promise, God of hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for hope, peace, joy and love in our community and around the world. Amen

All: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: Prepare for the coming of the Lord! Make way in your hearts for love! Get rid of all anger and fear, for God is about to bring incredible light to the world! Go in peace and confidence as witnesses to God's love.

All: Amen.

† We Depart in Peace †

THE CLOSING HYMN

O Come Emmanuel LBW 34

1. O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty and awe.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

3. O come, strong branch Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of
hell your people save And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

4. O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Remain Standing

THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God.

This Week, Dec 4	9:30 am Pastor Richard Blue	Next Week, Dec 11	9:30 a.m. Pastor Richard Blue
Assisting Minister	Tracy Guffey	Assisting Minister	Joan Shaw
Lector	June Gries	Lector	John Shaw
Ushers	Jim Jackson Deb Jackson	Ushers	Sheila Bryan John Browder
Greeters	Alan and Jeanette Berkshire	Greeters	June Gries Ron Westerfeld
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	Karen Bell	Communion Assistant	June Gries
Acolyte	Luke Stearns	Acolyte	Darrell Turner
Sound Technician	Ronald Kissell	Sound Technician	Dan Ivers
Video Technician	Neal Guffey	Video Technician	Geoff LaFlower
Bread Baker	June Gries	Bread Baker	June Gries
Women's Bible Study Snacks	Liz Clark	Women's Bible Study Snacks	Sherry Coomes
Slide Creators	Sophia Stearns	Slide Creators	Bill & Sherry Coomes
Children's Sermon	Tracy Guffey	Children's Sermon	Allison LaFlower
Counters (Monday)	Christian Gries Phil Miller	Counters (Monday)	Maggie Bode Cindy Gregory
This Week, Wednesday December 7 Midweek Advent Service	7pm- Wednesday Advent Service	Next Week Wednesday December 14 Midweek Advent Service	7pm- Wednesday Advent Service
Assistant Minister		Assistant Minister	
Lector	Allison LaFlower	Lector	June Gries
Ushers	Diana Clements-Scott	Ushers	Diana Clements-Scott
Greeters	Alan and Jeanette Berkshire	Greeters	Tom and Nancy Fisher
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	Karen Bell	Communion Assistant	June Gries
Acolyte		Acolyte	
Sound Technician		Sound Technician	
6 pm Pre Service Meal Provider	Women's Bible Study	6pm Pre Service Meal Provider	Men's Bible Study

Worship Volunteers