

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**115 Northfield St., Montpelier**  
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***www.montpelierlutheran.org***

**ADVENT III**

**December 12, 2021**

Preparation

Pre-service Music

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*See back page*

Prayer of the Day

Hearing the Word

The Lessons

*Insert*

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Silence for Meditation*

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6 *(Read responsively by whole verse)*

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

*Silence for Meditation*

Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand and speak together:*

**Hallelujah! Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near. Hallelujah!**

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Sermon

Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy

Response to the Word

Hymn of the Day: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

LBW #25

The Nicene Creed

*Insert*

Prayers of the People

*The congregation is seated for the prayers  
which begin with an extended period of silence*

Peace and Offertory

The Peace of the Lord

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: "Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior" WOV#614  
*(Verses 1, 2 & 3 - Refrain / Stanza / Refrain)*

Offertory Prayer:

L: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

The Penitential Rite

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

L: God of all time,

**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Absolution

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

p. 68

Our Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

p. 72

*Following, please be seated for a period of prayer and meditation while the pastor and assistants commune.*

Communion

The Dismissal

Blessing

**L:** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Savior of the Nations Come"

LBW #28

Benediction

**L:** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Lighting of the Advent Candle *The Wonder of the Message*

Reader: During Advent we listen for the wonder of God's Word.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we ponder the good news that is our great joy.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life's struggles

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we offer words of peace to those overcome by life's fears.

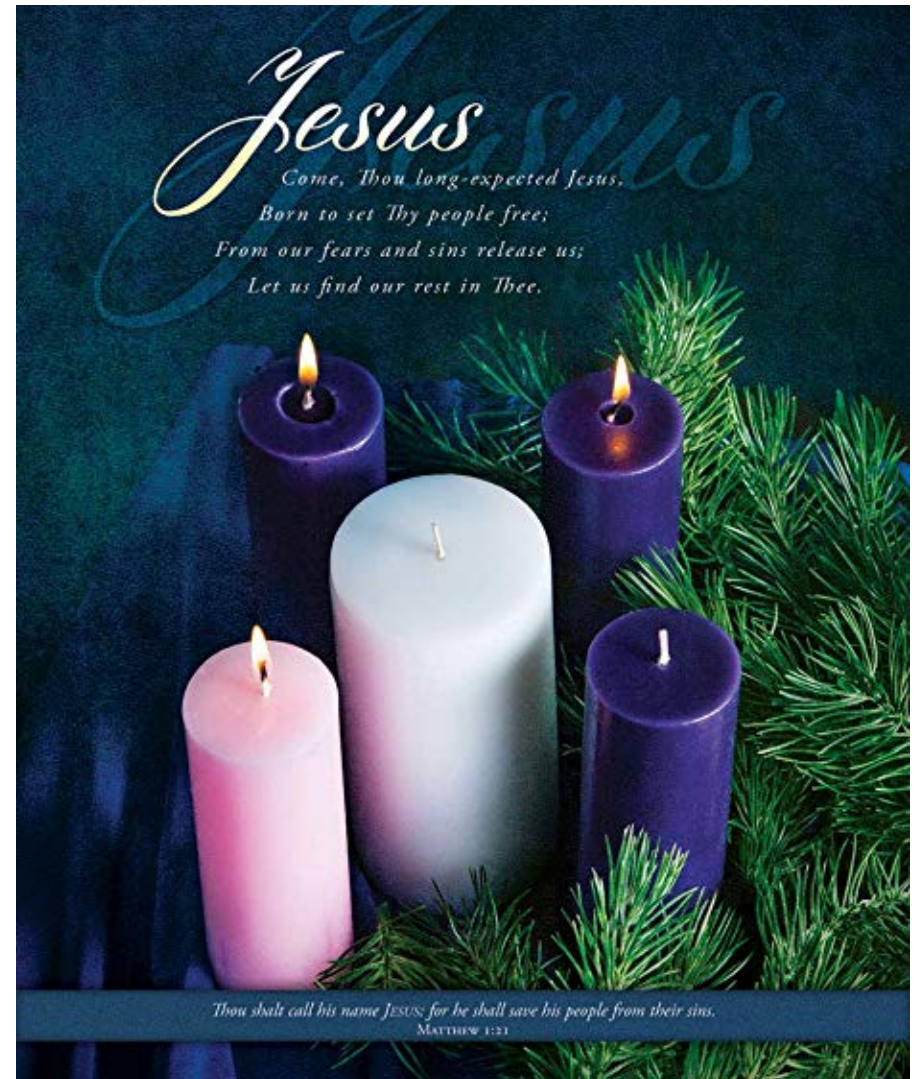
### *Candle Lighting:*

Today we light the three candles. The **first candle** calls us to behold the wonder of the season in a fresh way. In a world where too often the familiar becomes commonplace, Advent is a time to ponder themselves of God's amazing love. The **second candle** invites us to hear again the ancient prophecies that, like flames in the darkness, illuminate our world, inspire our faith, and guide our journey. As we light the **third candle**, we affirm that Advent is a time to hear again the still small voice calling us to behold God's promise, and embrace the gift of a Savior who is Christ our Lord.

### **Advent and Christmas at Shepherd of the Hills:**

December 19 (Advent IV) – This morning's worship with Rev. Rick Neu will be our traditional service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and will include the blessing of our Christmas tree. After the service, we will decorate the Church and tree for Christmas.

December 24 (Christmas Eve) 5:30pm. Led by Rev. Rick Neu, we join in singing our favorite carols, celebrating the birth of our Savior, as recorded in Luke 2, and rejoicing with Holy Communion.



## Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

## Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel: Luke 3:7-19

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and  
glorified.  
He 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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (*especially*). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

LITURGY PIECES

614 *Refrain* Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

Em Bm Em Am D Em C G Am D Em C Bm

Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa-ther, call-ing us to life:

Em Am Em Bm Am D G Em C Em7 Am Bm Em

Son of God who leads us to free-dom; glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

1 You are the Word who calls us out of dark-ness;  
 2 You are the one whom proph-ets hoped and longed for;  
 3 You are the Word who calls us to be ser-vants;  
 4 You are the Word who binds us and u-nites us;

C G Am Bm C D

you are the Word who leads us in-to light; you are the Word who  
 you are the one who speaks to us to-day; you are the one who  
 you are the Word whose on-ly law is love; you are the Word made  
 you are the Word who calls us to be one; you are the Word who

Em Em7 C Am Dsus4 D G Em

*Refrain*

brings us through the des-ert: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
 leads us to our fu-ture: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
 flesh who lives a-mong us: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
 teach-es us for-give-ness: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

C Am Dsus4 D C Am D Bm *Refrain*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na.

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.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'nings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## Savior of the Nations, Come

28

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the glo - ry of the Son!  
 2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, But from God's own mys - tic breath,  
 3 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!  
 4 God the Fa - ther is his source, Back to God he runs his course;

Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; Praise the per - fect Son of God.  
 Fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun When God breathed the Word, his Son.  
 Might - y God and man in one, Ea - ger now his race to run!  
 Down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

5 He leaves heaven to return;  
 Trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;  
 Riding out, returning home  
 As the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son  
 Girds himself in flesh to run  
 For the trophies of our souls,  
 Longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,  
 Breathing vict'ry with your light;  
 Darkness cannot hide your flame,  
 Shining bright as Jesus' name.