

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
ADVENT – WEEK 4
DECEMBER 21, 2024
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

Note: Pastor White will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service. Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers during Prayers of the People. We will also be using our cell phones for the Sharing of the Peace. You may wish to select someone ahead of time to send your message of peace and love.

GATHERING

Video: "Who Will You Bring?"

Reading: "The Candle of Love"

Opening song: "O Come, O come Emmanuel"

Gathering Words

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Christ's love has called us here.

Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

Christ's love is transforming the world.

In joy, we'll give thanks and sing.

Christ's love calls us to justice and peace.

In faith, we'll answer the call.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray together: **God of ancient days and future visions, we come into your presence to celebrate the joy of your Holy Spirit and the blessing of your Son, Christ Jesus. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, as you filled Elizabeth long ago. Sing through our songs of joy, as you sang through Mary. Speak through our words and our thoughts, that we may grow closer to the justice and the peace of Christ Jesus, who calls us here today. In Christ's holy and blessed name, we pray. Amen.**

Greetings

TONIGHT'S JOYFUL NOISE collection benefits the Coal Cat Café here in Tamaqua which helps find homes for feline friends. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sharing of Peace

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sharing by text

We invite you to take out your cell phone now and send a text message of joy and love to someone who isn't in worship this evening.

Godsightings:

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

THE WORD (Luke 1:39-45)

Gospel reading

Holy God, may we taste and see the good things you are doing in our lives.

May the words we hear inspire us to be your faithful followers. Amen.

A reading from Luke: ³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

The Gospel of Our Lord **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Special music – "Mary Did You Know" – Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

"Doxology" – The Vagle Brothers

Let us pray together: **May these gifts glorify your name, Holy One. May the ministries we support bring**

justice and peace to your world. May they offer faith and hope to your people. In grateful joy, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God calls us to be a praying people. Let us join in prayer, offering our praise, thanksgiving, and concerns to God ...

Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

The sending

Benediction

And all God's people say **Thanks be to God.**

Sending song: "Christmas Hallelujah" – Cloverton

Postlude

Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.