

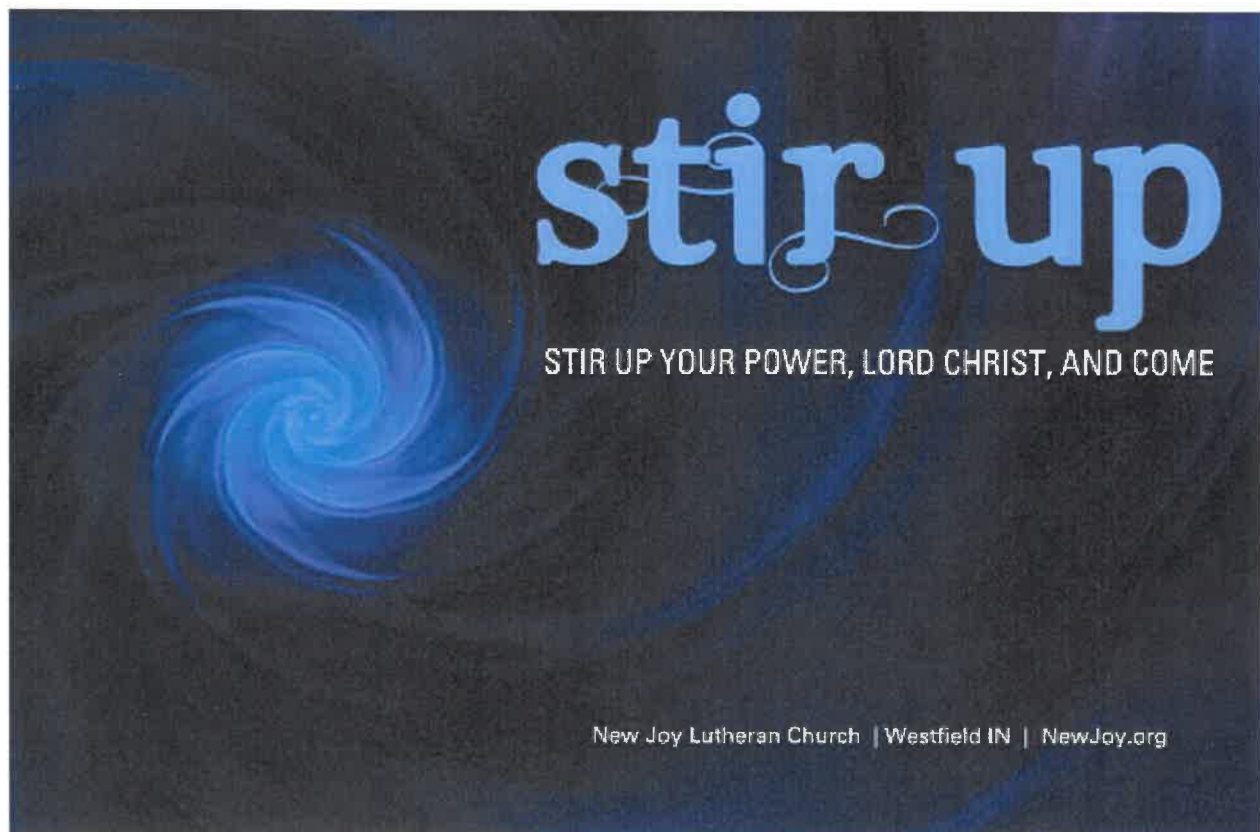


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A Congregation of Welcome, Grace, Faith and Promise

December 13, 2020



**Third Sunday
In Advent**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're Glad You're Joining Us This Morning!

Praying the Psalms

As we return to livestream—only for worship, we are adding a time of prayerful reflection to our Sundays together. Join us via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am for Praying the Psalms. The link can be found in the News to Know emails. Some of you may remember that several years ago Jessicah Duckworth led us with this weekly devotion in which we read and prayed a psalm each week prior to worship. Please mark your calendar and join us before worship beginning next Sunday.

Join us after worship at 10:45am for a **Sunday Morning Zoom Fellowship Meeting**. Our two interns, Cory and Emily, will be joining us each Sunday! It is a great way to get to know them better, and to catch up with your other New Joy friends! You can find the link to the coffee hour in our Friday News to Know emails. So jump on after worship and get to know our new interns!

Join us Wednesday for our **Zoom Bible Study** at 1:00pm. You will find a link to the Bible Study in Tuesday's News to Know.

Midweek Advent Services Wednesday—on Zoom

Our Midweek Advent Services will be a little different this year. We will be meeting on Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday evenings, not in person. We have two weeks left—December 9 and 16. The link to join in the Zoom service will be in Tuesday's News to Know. Our intern, Emily Michaelis, is helping coordinate these services! We hope you will join us Wednesday evening as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Still Time to Turn in Your Pledge!

If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2021, you may still do so! We would like to have all pledges by Tuesday, December 15, so that our finance team and treasurer can begin preparing our 2021 budget. You can find the link to submit your pledge in our Tuesday News to Know emails.



The Church Still Gathers

Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us Your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

O come, O Branch of 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*

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Son of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel.
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that
Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Words of Welcome

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Opening Prayer

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that
You bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on Your servants' plight,
And my weakness You did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blessed.
Could the world be about to turn.

Chorus: My Heart shall sing of the day You bring.
Let the fires of Your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

This week's Advent litany uses words from Isaiah 61 and from our Hymn of Praise.

- L: The Prophet Isaiah calls out, “The Lord God’s spirit is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
- C: **My heart shall sing of the day you bring, let the fires of your justice burn.**
- L: I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and dishonesty. I will make with my people an enduring covenant. Their descendants will be known among the nations. All who see them will recognize that they are a people blessed by the Lord.
- C: **My heart shall sing of the day you bring, let the fires of your justice burn.**
- L: The Lord comforts and provides for all who mourn, for those who mourn Zion. The Lord gives them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning. They will rebuild the ancient ruins, and restore the deserted places.
- C: **Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**
- L: I surely rejoice in the Lord; my heart is joyful because of my God. As the earth puts out its growth, and as a garden grows its seeds, so the Lord God will grow righteousness and praise before all nations.
- C: **Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**
- L: Bless us as we light these candles. Let the fires of your justice burn in our lives and in this world that you so love. In Jesus’ name.
- C: Amen.

Canticle of the Turning

From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev’ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev’ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.

Chorus: My Heart shall sing of the day You bring.
Let the fires of Your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Prayer of the Day:

Reader: As we prepare to hear the Word of God this day, let us pray:

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁶ A man named John was sent from God. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. ⁸ He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

¹⁹ This is John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ John confessed (he didn't deny but confessed), "I'm not the Christ."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

John said, "I'm not."

"Are you the prophet?"

John answered, "No."

²² They asked, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied,

*“I am a voice crying out in the wilderness,
Make the Lord’s path straight,
just as the prophet Isaiah said.”*

²⁴ Those sent by the Pharisees ²⁵ asked, “Why do you baptize if you aren’t the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?”

²⁶ John answered, “I baptize with water. Someone greater stands among you, whom you don’t recognize. ²⁷ He comes after me, but I’m not worthy to untie his sandal straps.” ²⁸ This encounter took place across the Jordan in Bethany where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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 every nation
Joy of every 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 Thy glorious throne

The Assisting Minister leads this portion of the service, where we proclaim our faith, renew our shared mission, lift our prayers to God, and extend God's peace with one another.

Mission Statement

AM: In person, in spirit, and in truth, the church still gathers.

C: **New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.**

Prayer

The Assisting Minister leads the congregation in the Prayers of the Church, giving thanks to God, and asking God's blessings for the church, the world, and all those in need. After each prayer petition, the congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."

Sharing God's Peace

We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you" now, in the middle of our worship service. We wish for each other that we'd truly experience God's presence and peace. This helps prepare us for the gift of Holy Communion. Our worship service will continue with the Offering

AM: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

God With Us

Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love
To be nearer to us

You've come to bring life to be Light
To shine brighter in us

Oh Emmanuel God with us

Chorus: Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our Redemption
God with us

You are God with us

Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name

And You've come to take sin to bear shame
And to conquer the grave

Oh Emmanuel God with us. *Chorus*

Bridge: You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory (Lord)
(REPEAT)

Ending: Oh God with us
You are God with us

Announcements/Offering

Offering Prayer

P: Generous God, you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the
world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.
C: Amen.

WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL

Words of Institution

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.

L: ...And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

**Glo-ri-a! In excel-sis De-o;
Glo-ri-a! In excel-sis De-o!**

P: Oh God, we call to you. Come to us quickly.
Hear our voice when we cry to you.

*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.*

Lord's Supper

All are welcome to the table, where Jesus is host and offers himself to all who desire to receive. This is truly our Lord's table. We believe that Jesus shows up in this meal - in the invitation, in the bread and cup, and in the precious words that his body and blood are given and shed "for you." This meal is indeed given for you for the forgiveness of sins and as a promise of our Lord's presence with you.

*Instructions on sharing communion at home:
These are the gifts of God, for you the people of God, and for that we say
Thanks be to God!*

Lamb of God

Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Chorus: Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Your gift of love they crucified
They laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Chorus*

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God. *Chorus*

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

(light, peace joy)

Prayer After Communion

WE GO OUT WITH GOD'S JOY

Blessing

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
+ now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

Prepare the Royal Highway

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:

Refrain: 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! *Refrain*

Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute to may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join their singing: *Refrain*

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: *Refrain*

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New Joy Lutheran Church: A Spirited Community

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.

Extend Radical Welcome

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that welcomes, values, accepts, and nurtures all people wherever they are in their relationship with God.

Share Generous Grace

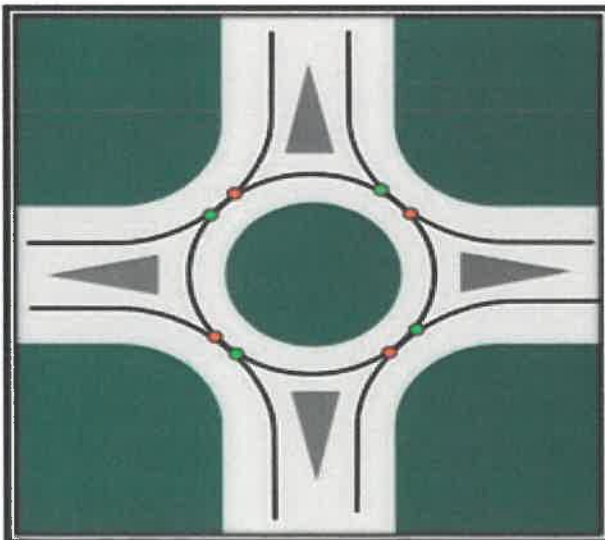
New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that freely proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

Nurture Transforming Faith

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

Live God's Promise

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.



About New Joy Lutheran Church

New Joy Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is a community of faith moved by God's Spirit. We come to New Joy from different places, with different life and faith experiences. What draws us together is the center – our Lord Jesus Christ – who welcomes us into a common life and transforming faith, and sends us out to share generous grace and boldly live God's promise.

