

Notice the Stable

Advent & Christmas 2024



Martin Luther wrote:

“Nobody notices or understands
what God performs in the stable.”

This season, let’s notice what God performs
in unexpected, out-of-the-way places.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

Welcome. We are blessed by your presence among us today. This bulletin contains the outline and words for worship this morning. Please see the back pages of this bulletin for ministry announcements and additional welcome information about New Joy Lutheran Church.

Little children are always welcome in worship – even and especially when they’re a little noisy! We welcome children to worship God by toddling around, playing with toys, shaking tambourines, babbling, singing, and coming to the Lord’s Table. If little ones get too noisy during spoken parts of the service – the reading of Scripture, the sermon, or prayers – please try to quiet them or take them into the hallway for a moment to calm down. Thank you!

Our **nursery** is also available most Sundays for **children aged 5 and under**.

God’s promises are at the heart of our worship. God promises justice for the lowly, forgiveness for the sinner, hope for the despairing, and joy for the sorrowful. These promises are “the Good News of Jesus Christ,” fulfilled by Jesus’s birth as a vulnerable child, his works of liberation and grace among us, and his victory over sin, death, and injustice by his resurrection from the grave. In the songs and prayers, Scripture and preaching, you’ll hear of God’s promise for you personally, for society, for this world that God so loves.

Our worship style is patterned after centuries of tradition reaching back to some of the earliest Christian communities. Our service is structured yet also informal, shaped by tradition yet also new. We observe seasons that lift up various themes from the life of Jesus and the mission of the church. In our prayers we pray not just for ourselves but for the church; all of creation; our neighbors and our society; the sick and suffering; and, for the blessed departed. We pray seeking that God’s promises would come to us and through us to a world in need.

Holy Communion is a meal of Christ’s radical welcome, real presence, and complete forgiveness. All are welcome to receive the gift of Jesus’ body and blood in the bread and cup of Holy Communion. We use grape juice for communion, and gluten-free bread is available upon request. Not sure whether to receive communion, or how? Simply find the pastor in the communion line and ask.

Welcome. We are so glad you are with us today.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT. Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

SONG: I LOVE TO BE IN YOUR PRESENCE

V×2, C, V, C×2

Chorus 1

I love to be in Your presence
With Your people singing praises
I love to stand and rejoice
Lift my hands and raise my voice

Verse

You set my feet to dancing
You fill my heart with song
You give me reason to rejoice rejoice

WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG: FREEDOM IS COMING

This song has a call-and-response structure between two sets of voices – one singing the unhighlighted lines, the other singing the highlighted lines.

1 Oh, free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,
 2 Oh, Je - sus, oh, Je - sus, oh,

1 Free-dom is com - ing, free-dom is
 2 Je - sus is com - ing, Je - sus is

free - dom. Oh,
 Je - sus. Oh,

com - ing, free-dom is com - ing, oh, yes, I
 com - ing, Je - sus is com - ing, oh, yes, I

free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,
 Je - sus, oh, Je - sus, oh,

know. Free-dom is com - ing, free-dom is
 know. Je - sus is com - ing, Je - sus is

free - dom. Oh,
 Je - sus.

com - ing, free-dom is com - ing, oh, yes, I
 com - ing, Je - sus is com - ing, oh, yes, I

yes, I know, oh, yes, I know, oh,

know.
know. Oh, yes, I know, oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh,

know, oh, yes, I know, oh, yes, I

yes, I know, oh, yes, I know, oh,

know. Oh, yes, I know, oh, yes, I

yes, I know.

know, oh, yes, I know, oh, yes, I know.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

SONG: CHILD OF LIGHT

Verse

A spark ignites, a candle glows,
a heart delights in the pleasure it knows.
Light comes so close, creation knows,
flame reaches higher and warmer it grows.
Like the wreath, a circle of light,
love all around us flows.



Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
We see your light and lift our voice,
and Rejoice! Rejoice!
Come Child so bright Oh hear our joy, Rejoice!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING LITANY

Prepare! The LORD our God is coming.

Jesus is coming.

But how shall we prepare?

Repent. Reconcile with one another. Recognize God's work among us.

Jesus is coming. Will we notice him?

We light two candles. The light shines brighter.

Gracious God, we pray, give us light to see your Son.

Jesus is coming. From the margins, the messenger cries out.

Light shines in unexpected places. What will we notice?

Jesus is coming, yes we know.

O Holy Spirit, grant that we would notice
that the kingdom of God is near.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

SONG: CHILD OF LIGHT

Repeated; see above

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HEBREW BIBLE

Malachi 3:1-7

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶ For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. ⁷ Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, “How shall we return?”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Luke 1:68-79

℞ *In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)*

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the ^l God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ^l set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a ^l mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ^l servant David. ℞**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ^l from our enemies,

⁷¹ from the hands of ^l all who hate us,
⁷² **to show mercy ^l to our forebears,**
and to remember your ^l holy covenant.
⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our ^l father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our ^l enemies,
free to worship you ^l without fear,
⁷⁵ **holy and righteous before you, all the days ^l of our life. R̄**
⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ^l the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre-^l pare the way,
⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge ^l of salvation**
by the forgiveness ^l of their sins.
⁷⁸ In the tender compassion ^l of our God
the dawn from on high shall ^l break upon us,
⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad-^l ow of death,**
and to guide our feet into the ^l way of peace. R̄

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
 and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

repeated; see above



SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

MISSION STATEMENT

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*We pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition concludes:
 Lord, in your mercy
 Receive our prayer.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.
Please extend a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

5

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks, to the

8

Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise!

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly are You, Lord, God of hosts!_____

5

Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

9

Blessed is He who comes in the name, Comes in the name of the Lord!_____

13

Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

During the Eucharistic Prayer, which includes Jesus' words instituting the Lord's Supper, the congregation prays the following responses:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.



LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION MEAL IS SERVED

In communion, Jesus gives himself in the form of bread and cup to all who desire to receive. While we feast, we sing.

LAMB OF GOD – Advent Lamb of God

$\text{♩} = 62$



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

5



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

9



Lamb of God you take a-way the sin. Grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC – LOVE DIVINE ALL LOVES EXCELLING

V1, V2, V3, V4

Verse 1

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Verse 2

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Verse 3

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Verse 4

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

ADVENT POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Voice 1

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu -

Voice 2

Al-le-lu_ ia! Al-le-lu_ ia!

11

ia Al - le - lu - ia! You give us Your-self, Your

Al-le-lu_ ia! Praise You! Al-le-lu_ ia! Al-le-lu_ ia! Al-le-lu_ ia! Praise You!

18

flesh and for-give-ness; fed and ful-filled, we look for Your light. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al-le Al-le Al-le-lu i - a!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG – COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

V1, V2

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We give thanks for all who give of themselves for service to God and to this community.

The band members are Glenn Hoffman, Jim Gregory, & Karen Archbold.
The Sound Board is run by Steve Castle.

	Today	Next Sunday, Dec. 15
Assisting Minister	Chris Studer	Sylvia Lux
Reader	Libby Dissauer	Stephanie Blocksom
Acolyte	Open	Open
Livestream Operator	Naaman Duckworth	Rich Kittlstved
Altar Guild	Jessica Allen	Jessica Allen
Nursery Care	Lucy Platt	Anya Verik
Ushers	Chuck and Janis Studer	Amber Blakley, Jenny Platt
Greeters	Jennifer Kocolowski, Open	Open, Open
Advent Wreath Lighting	Sylvia Lux	Kristi Kittlstved

We give thanks to the musicians, writers, and church ministries who create and publish much of the music, prayers, and words we use in worship.

Our liturgy music – the music that repeats weekly and forms the scaffolding of our service – was composed by our Music Minister, Glenn Hoffman. Thank you, Glenn, for composing such faithful music for us this Advent season!

The following songs are used by permission, CCLI License #1876268:

- **I Love To Be In Your Presence** – by Ed Kerr and Paul Baloche, © 1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Integrity Music

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- **Prepare The Royal Highway** – Emma Lou Diemer, Dorothy Diemer Hendry, and Frans Mikael Franze
- **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** – by Rowland Hugh Prichard and Charles Wesley, Public Domain
- **Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus** – by Rowland Hugh Prichard and Charles Wesley, Public Domain

Emma Lou and Dorothy Diemer, contributors to the version of *Prepare the Royal Highway* we sing today, are Jessicah Duckworth's great aunts. Emma Lou, who died in the past year, was a noted composer and hymn writer. Dorothy (d. 2006) was an English teacher, poet, and collaborator with her sister Emma Lou on hymns.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AT-HOME ADVENT PRAYER BOOKLETS are available to pick up in the church entranceway. Use this booklet to light an Advent wreath at home each night during Advent.

COFFEE HOUR is shared on the first Sunday of the month, and on other special occasions. If you would like to help with our monthly Coffee Hour, please reach out to Kristi Kittilstved.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORYTELLING & SINGALONG –on Sunday, December 15, our children will enjoy and share a special time of storytelling and song. In order to learn the songs, all children elementary age and younger are urged to participate in brief rehearsals following worship on November 17, December 1, and December 8 to learn our songs.

JOYFUL GIRLS' ANNUAL SERVICE PROJECT: FAMILY PROMISE DONATION NEEDS –

For this year's Service Project, Joyful Girls is collecting donations of new *unwrapped* Sweatshirts in any size for Men, Women, and Children, as well as Knit Hats, for Family Promise of Hamilton County until December 15. We have a bin located in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

KROGER CARD DONATIONS – The church office receives calls from families and individuals in need. While we are unable to support people with rent or significant utility expenses, we do like to provide people with Kroger gift cards to help with their gas or grocery needs. We are currently out of Kroger gift cards. If you are able, next time you're at Kroger purchase one or more \$25 gift cards and drop them off at the church office so that we can continue to provide a small amount of comfort to our neighbors in need. Thank you.

Notice the Stable

Advent & Christmas
at New Joy

Advent Wreath Workshop

- Sunday, November 24, 5pm

Sundays of Advent

- December 1, 8, 15, 22, 9:30am

Children's Christmas Singalong & Storytelling

- Sunday, December 15,
in worship (9:30am)

Advent Evening Prayer services

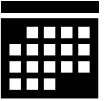
- Wednesdays,
December 4, 11, 18, 7pm

Christmas Season Services

- Christmas Eve, Tuesday,
December 24, 5pm & 7:30pm
- Sundays, December 29 &
January 5, 9:30am



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



Today, Sunday, December 8

- Worship, 9:30am, The Second Sunday of Advent
- Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship
- Children's Christmas Storytelling & Singalong rehearsal, following worship
- Confirmation Ministry Class – Trip to Castleton Mall 2:00-4:00pm

Monday, December 9

- Preschool 4's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm
- BSA Troops 1910/1920, 6:30-8:00pm

Tuesday, December 10

- Seasoned Believers, @ Chick-Fil-A on Route 32 in Westfield, 9:00-10:30am
- Preschool 3's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm
- Clergy Text Study, 10:00-11:30am

Wednesday, December 11

- Preschool 4's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm
- Bible Study, 1:00-2:30pm
- Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00-7:00pm
- Advent Evening Prayer, 7pm
- Band Rehearsal, 7:30-8:15pm

Thursday, December 12

- Preschool 3's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm

Friday, December 13

- Preschool 4's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm

Saturday, December 14

Sunday, December 15

- Worship, 9:30am, The Third Sunday of Advent, Children's Christmas Singalong & Storytelling
- Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship
- Preschool Christmas Program, 5:00-6:00pm

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 a Radical Welcome We are a spirited community that strives to welcome, value, accept, and nurture all people wherever they are in their relationship with God. Since our founding in 2002, New Joy has been committed to welcoming people of all races, incomes, and expressions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Share a Generous Grace We are a spirited community which boldly proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

Nurture Transforming Faith We are a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

Live God's Promise We are a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.

New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

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New Joy Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
www.iksynod.org | www.elca.org

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

