

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.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER



OPENING SONG: PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord

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

The LORD our God is coming. Get ready!

Help us prepare, O God.

Here's what to do: Bear fruits worthy of repentance.

Do good works. Love your neighbor.

Help us, O God, to love our neighbor.

We light three candles. The light shines brighter and brighter.

The light of Christ is dawning.

In your light, O God, we see a world in need.

We see people who need coats, and families who go hungry.

Let us share what we have,

for in sharing we receive the goodness of God.

The kingdom of God is near.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

SONG: CHILD OF LIGHT

Repeated; see above

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

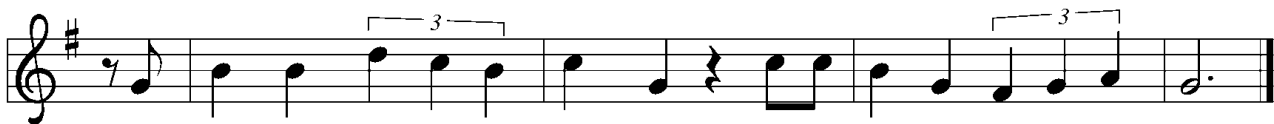
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORYTELLING & SINGALONG

Today's children's sermon is a singalong and storytelling event! Congregation, please sing along with the kids after the first verse of each song, or when indicated. Thank you!

Opening Song: He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Song: Magnificat

Introduction

Hail (x2)

Hail Mary (x2)

Hail Mary full of grace (x2)

Chorus (call and response style)

Lead Voice

My soul glorifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior
He has done great things for me
Holy, holy, holy his name

Response

Hail Mary full of grace.
Hail Mary full of grace.
Hail Mary full of grace.
Holy, holy, holy his name

Verse

Scattered the proud
Guarded the weak
Showing his strength
(all voices) **Promised to Abraham long ago**

Holy, holy, holy his name

filled the hungry
not the mighty
and his mercy

Holy, holy, holy his name

Chorus (all voices sing call and response)

My soul glorifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior
He has done great things for me
Holy, holy, holy his name
Hail

Hail Mary full of grace.
Hail Mary full of grace.
Hail Mary full of grace.
Holy, holy, holy his name

Storytelling: Jesus is Born

Song: Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Storytelling: The Wise Men



Song: Joy to the World!



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Many thanks to our children for singing today!

Additional thanks to Lucy Platt, our storyteller; Stephanie Blocksom, Jen Johnson, and Jessicah Duckworth for supporting the kids and getting them ready to sing.

A special appreciation to the publishing house of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland who gave us permission to use the Magnificat song in worship today. (This song is part of the Irish church's children's Christian learning curriculum.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – ADVENT ALLELUIA

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! Show us Your Word, Your

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

18

light in our sto-ry. We sing in praise, our hope, Your Glo-ry! Al - le - lu - - ia!

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

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-20

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ 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? ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and

whoever has food must do likewise.”¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ 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.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.¹⁹ But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done,²⁰ added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

repeated; see above

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

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 – MY LORD WHAT A MORNING

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,




Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.


ADVENT POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE


Voice 1 

Voice 2 

11 



18 



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG – FOREVER

V1, V2, PC1, C, V3, PC2, Cx2

Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Verse 2

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Pre-Chorus

Sing praise sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

Verse 3

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

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. 22
Assisting Minister	Sylvia Lux	<i>Kyle Blakley</i>
Reader	Stephanie Blocksom	<i>Carly Havlik</i>
Acolyte	Open	Open
Livestream Operator	Rich Kittlstved	<i>Phil Havlik</i>
Altar Guild	Jessica Allen	<i>Jessica Allen</i>
Nursery Care	Anya Verik	<i>Lucy Platt</i>
Ushers	Amber Blakley, Jenny Platt	<i>Becky Suchomel, Cindy Tomishima</i>
Greeters	Open, Open	Open
Advent Wreath Lighting	Kristi Kittlstved	<i>Kristi Kittlstved</i>

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:

- **Forever** – by Chris Tomlin, © 2001 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs, Capitol CMG Publishing

The following songs are used by permission of GIA/OneLicense, License #A-726809:

- **Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah** – Wayne I. Wold, Text: Wayne I. Wold, Text: and Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune, @1984 Fortress Press, Augsburg Fortress

The following songs are Public Domain:

- **My Lord, What A Morning** – Public Domain

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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.

JOYFUL GIRLS' ANNUAL SERVICE PROJECT: Thank you to everyone who donated sweatshirts and knit caps to give to Family Promise of Hamilton County for our neighbors in need.

SHARING GENEROUSLY PLEDGES – We are still receiving pledges of financial support for 2025. Can you make a pledge of financial support? Your statement of intent to give helps us plan our budget for 2025. Pledge cards are available at church. Questions? Reach out to Jessica Duckworth or any member of the Sharing Generously Team.

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. 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 in advance, and thanks to those who have already donated cards. Peace be with you!

SILVER BOX DELIVERIES – In today’s Gospel John the Baptist calls people to share what they have for the sake of their neighbor in need. Do you have time on Saturday to share? We are in need of 8-16+ volunteers for our Saturday, December 21 delivery. What are Silverbox Deliveries? Working with Lutheran Child and Family Services, we deliver boxes of groceries to households in need on the East Side who cannot get out to the grocery store themselves. On your Church Center app click “events,” or scan this code. Contact Andy Clark or Pastor Chris for more information. Thank you!



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

NEW MINISTRY TEAMS are forming next month. Are you interested in contributing to our Christian Learning or Worship Ministry teams? If so, contact Pastor Chris or Becky Suchomel, our Ministry Board President.

JEWISH-LUTHERAN DIALOGUE EVENT is coming to New Joy in early February. More information is coming soon!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES –are you or someone you know interested in joining New Joy Lutheran Church? We hold new member classes once/year each January/February. Classes are held immediately worship for several weeks in January and February with newcomers and “oldcomer” established church members. The class also includes a dinner at Pastor Chris’ house. Please let Pastor Chris or Nicole Williams, Parish Administrator (office@newjoy.org), know if you’re interested in joining. Full details to be announced after the start of the New Year.

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

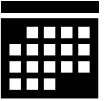
- Wednesdays,
December 4, 11, 18, 7pm

Christmas Season Services

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



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



<p>Today, Sunday, December 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
<p>Monday, December 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool 4's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm• BSA Troops 1910/1920, 6:30-8:00pm
<p>Tuesday, December 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seasoned Believers, @ Chick-Fil-A on Route 32 in Westfield, 9:00-10:30am• Preschool 3's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm• BSA Troops 1910/1920, 6:45-8:15pm
<p>Wednesday, December 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool 4's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm• Advent Evening Prayer, 7:00-7:30pm• Band Rehearsal, 7:30-8:15pm
<p>Thursday, December 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool 3's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm
<p>Friday, December 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool 4's Class, 9:30am-12:30pm
<p>Saturday, December 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Silverbox Food Delivery, 11am, LCFS's <i>The Sharing Place</i>
<p>Sunday, December 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worship, 9:30am,• Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship
<p>Monday, December 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church Office will be closed from December 23, 2024, until January 1, 2025• Preschool Winter Break will be from December 23, 2024, until January 6, 2025

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

