

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Regular text is spoken by the Pastor or Worship Leader

Bold text is spoken by the Congregation

**Indicates to please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE

“People, Look East!”

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, and come.

Make all things new.

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

Stir up our hearts, Lord, and make all things new.

For any lingering bitterness that scratches our soul:

Stir up our hearts, Lord, and make all things new.

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

Give us the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

In this season of hope and expectation, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

God of advent,

restore our hearts with your loving presence. In this season of decreasing daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We cling to the worldly things around us and we put ourselves above all. We often fail to serve you when we do not serve others. Free us from the power of sin and lead us to live as your holy people, in the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Hear the Good News: God's Son, the light of the world, was sent to free us from sin, to show God's infinite love and forgiveness for all. Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new.

Amen

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.

God of Advent, gather us, forgive us and keep us awake as we light this circle of light. You continue to do great things for us, may we be your light in the world, serving those who look for the dawn of your justice and mercy.

Amen.

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

***GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh, that you would tear the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

New International Version

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1–7, 17–19 – *read responsively*

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your power and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself. ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



* HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

“Hopes, Fears...and Jesus”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

*** PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *Apostles Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(We greet one another with a distanced “Peace be with you”)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Bell Ensemble

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

arr. Anna Laura Page

JoAnn Liechty, Diane Phelps, Melanie Nagel, Diana Ziegler, Katie Short, Maddie Short

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*** THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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.

*BENEDICTION

In all our Advent preparations,
remain watchful with our eyes on Christ,
whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory.
And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit
be with us now and forever.

Amen

* CLOSING HYMN

“People Look East”

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

*Please be seated and you will be dismissed from your pew,
 starting with the back pews and moving toward the front.
 Please proceed directly outside and do not linger in the Narthex.*

POSTLUDE

“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying” – arr. R. Hobby

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People Look East Text: Eleanor Farjeon, ©E. Farjeon Will Trust, Music arr. ©1999 Novello & Co.

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Worship Matters

What is Advent? Advent means “coming” or “arrival”. It is the first season of the new Church Year, a season of preparation that looks toward the celebration of Christmas. The color for Advent is blue, a tradition that began in Swedish churches centuries ago. Blue suggests hope, a primary theme of Advent. Knowing that Jesus already came once in a manger, on the Sundays of Advent we focus on the second coming of Jesus, John the Baptist as he heralds the coming of Christ, and the virgin Mary as the obedient servant chosen to bear the Son of God.

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502

Phone Number: 419-445-4656 Fax: 419-445-2952

Web Site: www.the-welcome-place.org

Office Hours:

Pastor Paul Reichert

Deacon Steve Basselman

Brenda Shibler

Mon & Tues, by appt.

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning

Tues. – Fri. 8:00-12:30

Wed & Thurs, 9-3

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri. afternoon

e-mail: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org pastorpaul@the-welcome-place.org

steveb@the-welcome-place.org

Worship Services:

9:00 am each Sunday

7:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

-9:00 Sunday & 7:00 Wednesday live broadcast on Facebook and YouTube

Building The Welcome Place

Who Are We? We are The Welcome Place

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- Romans 15:7

What Is Our Mission As A Church And As Members? WWW

We are...**Welcoming** friends and strangers with God's love.

Working to build deeper relationships with Jesus.

Witnessing to share God's love with everyone

What Is Our Vision Of Who God Wants Us To Be? ORG

People who are serving...**One Real God**,

living **One real faith**,

making **One real difference**.

How Do We Remind Ourselves?

www.the-welcome-place.org

Welcome to worship today and join us in building The Welcome Place Jesus calls us to be.

We Welcome All to St. Martin's Lutheran Church this Sunday as you join us in person and online to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ.

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Ministers of Worship	-Everyone Present both near and far
Preaching	-Deacon Steve Basselman
Worship Leaders	-JoAnn Liechty, Melanie Nagel
Organist/Pianist	-Steve Basselman
Usher Team	-Butch Blankenship
Sound System	-Tracy Ziegler
Offering Counters	-Jo Ann Liechty, Butch Blankenship

Two Sunday School Class You Are Invited to Join . . .

Cecily's Adult Sunday School Class meet on Zoom. The class is using a summary study of the books of the Bible. Even if you haven't been involved before, if you would like to receive a link to the study class, just let Cecily know and she'll send it to you: cecily@rteceexpress.net

Worship Rewind will be led by Deb Schmidt and Janet Wyse and also meet on Zoom. Please contact Deb Schmidt if you would like to receive a link and participate in their discussion on Sunday mornings after worship. Email djschmidt@hotmail.com and put "Sunday School" in your subject line. Their topic of discussion is that Sunday's Worship theme, message, hymns and how they apply to our daily lives.

Thankoffering Reminder . . . you may drop off your offering anytime during the week, give it to Brenda, or mark your offering envelope, Thankoffering. Deadline is December 13.

Christmas Cheer Tree . . . Please support Christmas Cheer by taking tags from the tree in the Narthex and purchasing the items on the tags. Your donations help to put food on the table of local families & gifts into the hands of children on Christmas morning. Please bring the items back to church by 11 am on December 6. If you're not able to pick up tags, you can donate monetarily via fultoncountychristmascheer.org. Together we can do great things!

The Four Wednesdays of Advent will feature the themes Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. These worship services will continue to be broadcast on Facebook each week, Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16 and Dec. 23. Pastor Paul will be preaching.

Coat Ministry Update . . . A total of 33 families were served with a total of 126 coats. Also 26 coats were donated to Independence Education Center which serves all of Northwest Ohio. Thank you to all who donated coats and helped with the distribution.

Order Your Poinsettias . . . December 6 is the deadline. There are order slips in the Church Office.

This Week at St. Martin's

Today – November 29 – Advent I

Worship, 9:00 am, live broadcast
Adult Sunday School, via Zoom, 10:30 am
Virtual Sunday School

Monday – November 30

Monday Night Bible Study, 7:30 pm, Zoom Meeting, check your email

Tuesday – December 1

Men's Breakfast Bible Study, 6:45, St. Martin's Fellowship Hall
Mutual Ministry, 4:00 pm

Wednesday – December 2

Welcome Meal, 5:15 pm, drive through pick-up
Worship, 7:00 pm, live broadcast: Hope
Men's Ensemble, 6pm
Bell Choir, 7pm
Adult Circle, 7:30, via zoom
Catechism, 7:35, via zoom

Thursday – December 3

Women's Breakfast Bible Study, 7:00, Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 9:00 am

Next Sunday – December 6 – Advent II

Worship, 9:00 am, live broadcast, Holy Communion
Adult Sunday School, via Zoom, 10:30 am
Virtual Sunday School

Last Week at St. Martin's . . .

Receipts Week of November 22, 2020 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	\$7,499.90	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	\$5,402.00
Benevolence Received	\$50.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	\$538.71
Other Designated Income	\$3,339.00	As of 10/31/2020	
Total Income	\$10,888.90	YTD Operating Received	\$226,373.27
		YTD Operating Expenses	(\$222,053.71)
Attendance – 46		Net Income/(Deficit)	\$4,319.56

St. Martin's Prayer Line

For our prayers in worship this morning and our daily devotions in the coming week, we remember:
All Believers as we look for the coming Messiah, may we be ready to see the Son of Man coming
in a cloud with power and great glory
All in Need both body & soul that we might know the joy we have in the presence of our Lord,
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and King
Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Synod Staff members and all the office staff, that they may be
supported in their ministry to the Church
The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, St. Martin's Companion Congregation, may they continue to carry
out God's ministry and mission in Tanzania
Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer Lutheran, Toledo may they continue to carry out
God's ministry and mission in the Toledo Area
All First Responders, Hospital Staff, Caregivers who have been in harm's way since the outbreak
of the coronavirus, may we know the ever-present grace of God
All who have lost family members and friends to the corona virus, may we know the comforting
presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
For those who need healing, may they know the healing hand of God

Members of St. Martin's

Jerry Geiger
Sharon Heckel
Dick Nagel
Mike Short
Al Siewert
Joe Wyse

Family & Friends of St. Martin's

Margaret Benecke, Dan & Jeff Benecke's aunt
Paul Bockelman, Deb Schmidt's father
Phillip Calvin, Tanya Howell's brother
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Steven DeNault, June Hayes' friend
Patricia Grover, friend of Melanie Nagel, ACT friends, cancer
Kirk Hummel, son-in-law of Carl & Becky Collins (WPW), cancer
Sue Hurst, Archbold area friend
Greg Jenkins, Pastor Paul's brother-in-law
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon, Leukemia
Diana Kosier, sister of Connie Lauber, cancer treatments
Mary McLennen, friend of Pastor Paul's sister with Covid-19
Lois Mininger, June Hayes' cousin
Joan Mortenson, Pastor Paul's sister-in-law
Ana Perry, Andi Erbskorn's niece
Doug & April Saville, friends of Gene & Jan Delaney
Janice Siegel, Dustin Bailey's mother, cancer
Jim Shiley, Beth Reichert's father
Jennifer Smith, Bill Poston's daughter
Lu Wolf, Judy (Paul) Wyse's mother

Our Shut-ins Rex Detwiler, Henry & Dorothy Huner, Irene Liechty, Ada Thrasher, Louise Wyse

For those who need God's protection and the assurance that he is near

All St. Martin's Members as they prepare for Ministry

Our College students both close to home and far away

All members, family & friends who serve in our military, Steve & Sara (Delaney) Adams,
Patrick Cirenza (June Hayes), Bradley Nilsson (Pat Richards), Christopher Goertz,
Brendon Johns, Kasyn Schaffner, Christopher Shirley, Spencer Short

①① Prayer requests for the people of St. Martin's ①①

(Note, we include a person's name with permission.)