

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
Rev. Paul Reichert, Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Isaiah pairs images of a people restored with images of weddings and springtime and oak trees. The apostle Paul urges us to rejoice “always.” John the Baptist, in his own way, calls for rejoicing by his acknowledgment that he is not what we are waiting for. John reminds us that there can be joy in taking our proper place, pointing to Jesus without needing to be Jesus.

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

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSIOIN 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

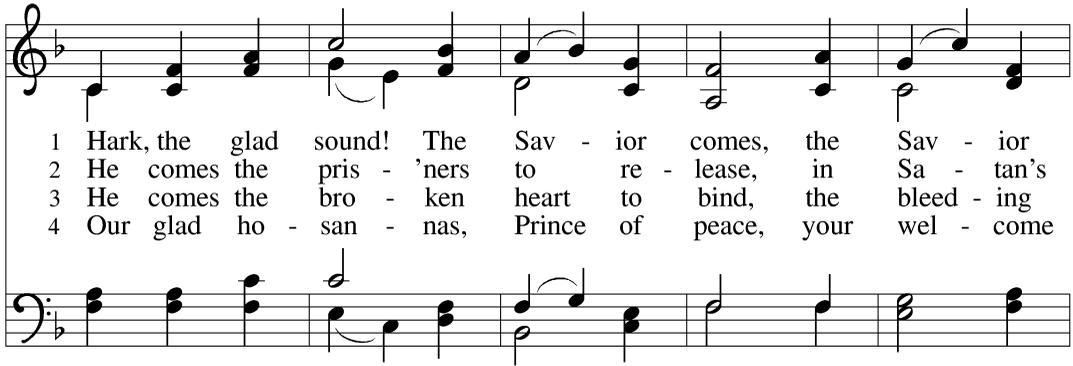
1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.

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.

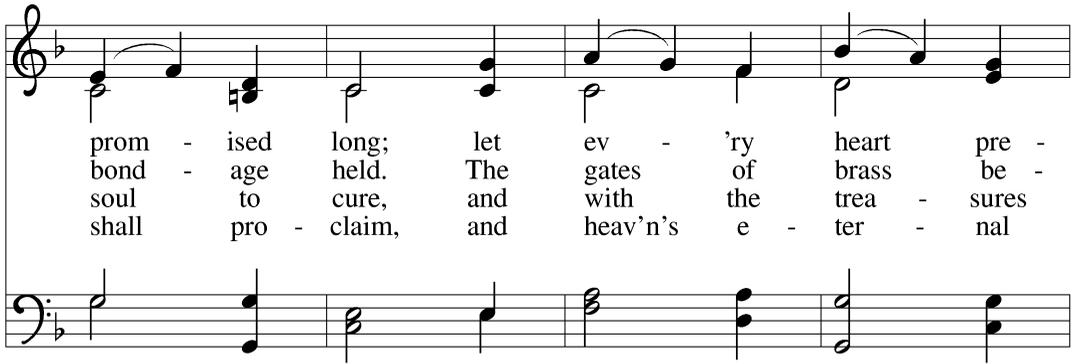
Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Hark the Glad Sound”



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

*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 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.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

- ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
- ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
- ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
- ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
- ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

MESSAGE

"Hearing Through the Noise"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Please sing Verse 5 in unison

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

*** 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

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

arr. Anna Laura Page

JoAnn Liechty, Joan Meyer, Melanie Nagel, Diane Phelps, Katie Short, Diana Ziegler

***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

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Please sing the Refrain twice at the end

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



*** 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

“On Jordan’s Bank” – arr. R. Hobby

+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

All copyrighted music and texts are used with permission. One License A-731544 ; CCLI #2049355; Augsburg Fortress #SAS004104

Holy Child Within the Manger Text and Music: Marty Haugen ©1987 GIA Publications

+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

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.

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
- Organist/Pianist -Steve Basselman
- Lector -Diane Phelps
- Usher Team -Mark Weaver
- Sound System -Bill Phelps
- Offering Counters -Jo Ann Liechty, Robin Trudel

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.

This Week at St. Martin's

Today – December 13

Worship, 9:00 am, live broadcast
Adult Sunday School, via Zoom, 10:30 am
Virtual Sunday School
Catechism, via Zoom, 6:00 pm

Monday – December 14

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

Tuesday – December 15

Men's Breakfast Bible Study, 6:45, St. Martin's Fellowship Hall

Wednesday – December 16

Welcome Meal, 5:15 pm, drive through pick-up
Worship, 7:00 pm, live broadcast
Chancel Choir, 7:00 pm
Adult Circle, 7:30, via zoom
Catechism, 7:35, via zoom

Thursday – December 17

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

Next Sunday – December 20

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

Thankoffering Reminder . . . you give it to Brenda or mark your offering envelope, Thankoffering. Deadline is today, December 13.

Check out the second installment of our **Christmas Music Moments** that was posted on Facebook and YouTube on Friday. St. Martin's Bell Choir and Steve Basselman performed various bell and organ carol arrangements. More recordings from other St. Martin's musicians will be shared throughout December.

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

Cecily's Adult Sunday School Class meet on Zoom. The class has returned to the 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.

Last Week at St. Martin's . . .

Receipts Week of December 6, 2020 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	\$16,850.00	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	\$5,402.00
Benevolence Received	\$455.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	\$538.71
Other Designated Income	\$2,874.00	As of 11/30/2020	
Total Income	\$20,179.00	YTD Operating Received	\$251,169.58
		YTD Operating Expenses	(\$245,872.21)
Attendance – 41		Net Income/(Deficit)	\$5,297.37

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

Family & Friends of Jim Shiley, Beth Reichert's father, who went to his heavenly home,
December 9, may we know the comforting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ

Family & Friends of Elmer Badenhop, Clare Badenhop's brother-in-law, who went to his eternal
home this past week, may we know the comforting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ

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, 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
Jennifer Smith, Bill Poston's daughter
Lu Wolf, Judy (Paul) Wyse's mother

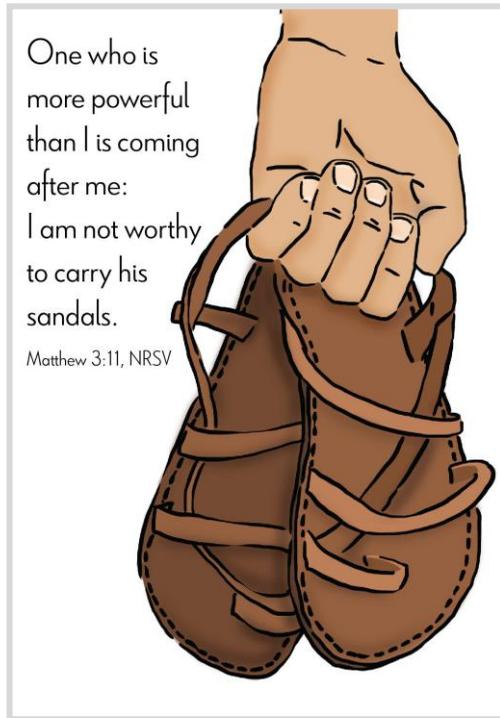
Our Shut-ins Rex Detwiler, Henry & Dorothy Huner, Irene Liechty, Ada Thrasher, Louise Wyse

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
Please contact the church office by 9:00 am. Thursday
(Note, we include a person's name with permission.)



Christmas Worship

We are keenly aware that things are different this year, and so our Christmas Worship services will also be different. The elements and formats that we've come to expect at St. Martin's will still be happening, but they will be offered in different ways.



Online Only Worship Opportunities

Christmas Eve Family Service – This will be a pre-recorded service available on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages only. Designed with kids in mind, it will follow the typical pattern of our past 4pm Christmas Eve services. Although not in-person, please include this worship service in your family gatherings this year.

Christmas Eve Festival Worship Service – This will be a pre-recorded service available on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages only. It will follow the format and content of our typical 7pm worship service format with all its celebration. Although this worship service will not be held in-person, the Chancel Choir and a string quartet will add their musical accompaniment.

In-Person Worship Opportunities



11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – This will be a reflective service and will close with candlelighting. This service will also be livestreamed on the church's Facebook page.

10:00 am Christmas Day – This will be a service of carol singing with the celebration of Communion. This service will also be livestreamed on the church's Facebook page.

All worship services, whether they are in-person or online only, will include the celebration of Communion. If you would like communion supplies, please contact the church office. You may pick them up, or we can deliver them to you.

Please note that our in-person worship plans may change depending on the circumstances we may be experiencing in the next 10 days.