

*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*December 5, 2021*

*Second Sunday of Advent*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ  
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. There is no pre-recording of the service on YouTube this week.  
Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

*\*Congregation standing*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.*

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

P: God for whom we wait.

**C: *in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.***

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

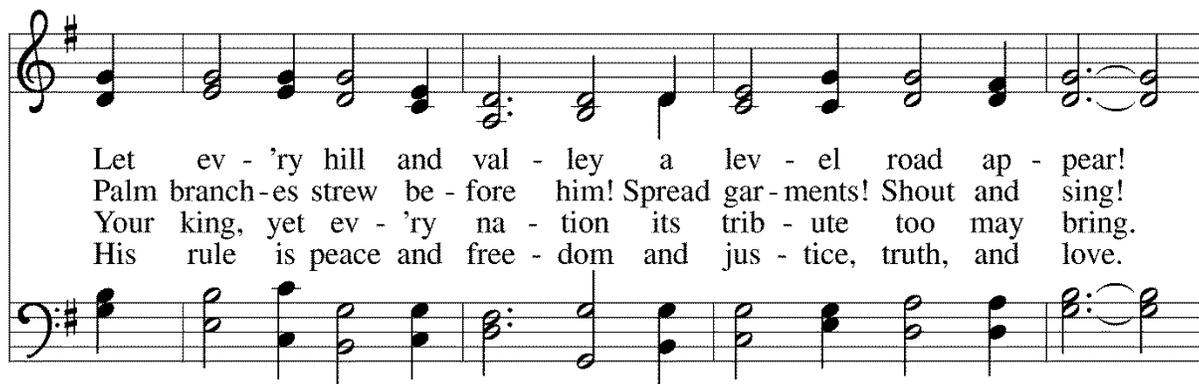
**C: Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG *Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)***

# 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.

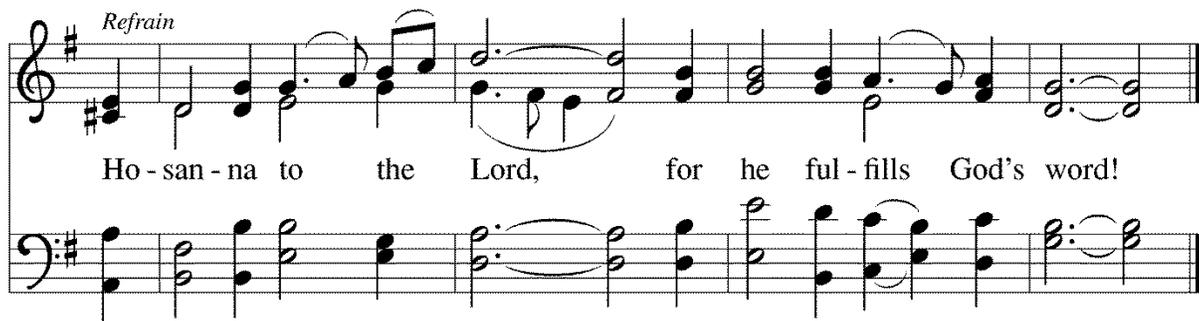


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



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!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## \*THE 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.***

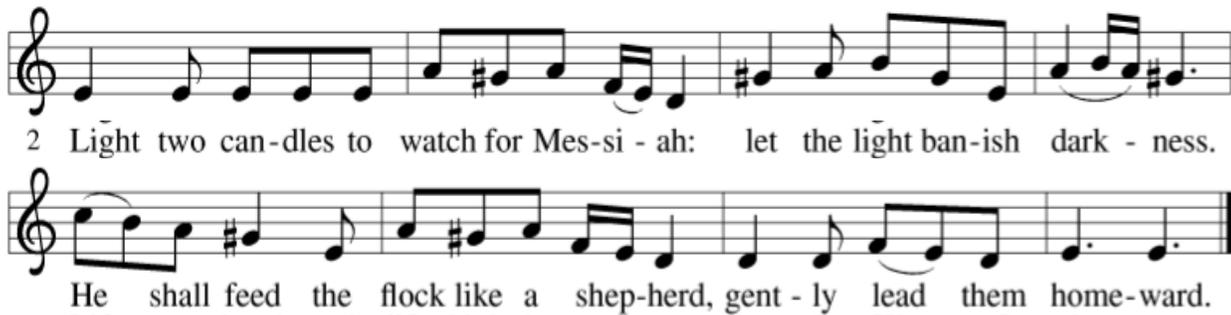
## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Dear God, as we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace. Peace in our hearts, Peace in our homes, Peace in our communities.

C: **Amen**

*Light the two candles.*

Sing ELW 240, "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah," v. 2



2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: ***Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

## FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4

Lector

A reading from Malachi.

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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; <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Then

the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11**

**Lector**

A reading from Philippians.

*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.*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.  
<sup>5</sup>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;  
<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' ”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
 C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

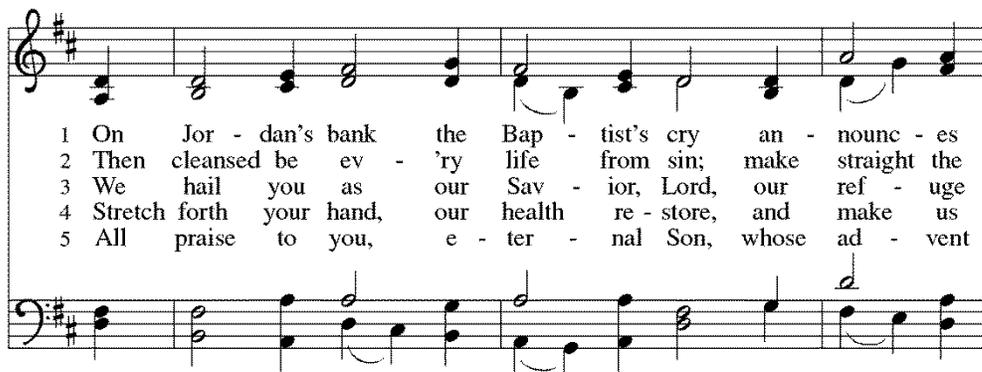
SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

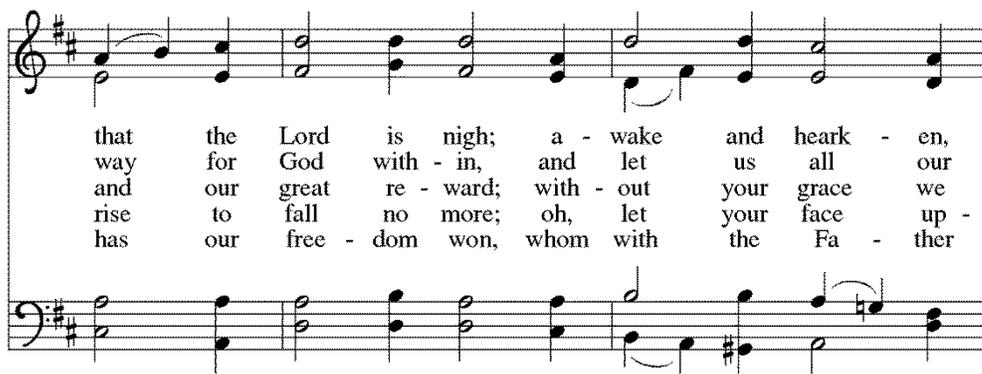
HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

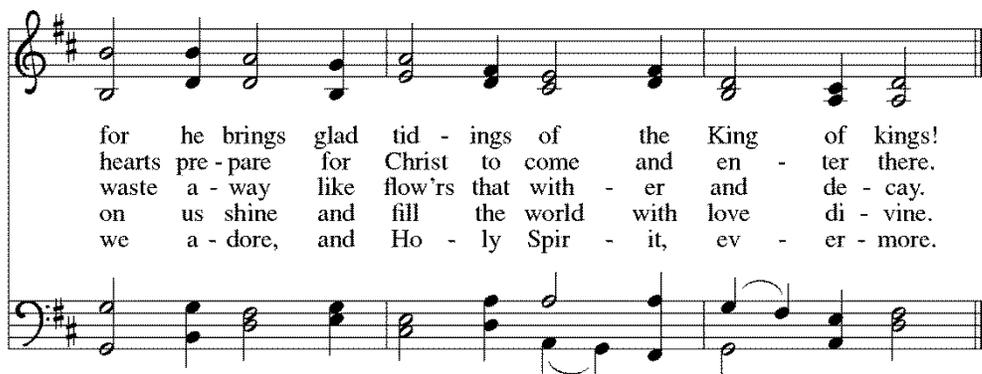
(ELW 249)



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 heark - 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.

## 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 to the dead.\*  
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.

## \*PRAYERS

A: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. *[Brief silence]*

A: You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (especially). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received.

Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Heavenly Father, You have generously blessed us with families. Thank you for your guidance and protection. As you love and care for us, may we also always love and care for our families and keep them in our prayers. We pray this week for the Gigante, Gilnett and Glaffelter families as well as our Messiah family. May You keep us all from danger and sickness and guard our hearts so that we are reminded of Your Grace. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE-IN-PLACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*\*\*Please share signs of peace with those in your immediate vicinity only. If any are not comfortable making physical contact during the peace, please share peace in other ways.*

## **THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*\*\*Offering baskets are located near the doors to the sanctuary. Please place your offerings in the baskets at the end of the service as you depart.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

**C: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen**

## **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 God thanks and praise.**

## **\*PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

**C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C: *Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.***

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C: *Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.***

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: 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.**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*\*Please process up the center aisle as directed by the ushers. Please maintain social distancing between family groups while processing. Bread and wine will be available from the pastor and the first lay assistant, with empty cups available on your way to the front. Prepackaged grape juice and wafer servings will be available from the second lay assistant. Baskets for empty cups will be set out. Please return to your seats down the side aisles.*

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C: Amen**

### **\*BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: Amen**

SENDING SONG

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(ELW 254)



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*\*\*Please exit through either set of doors, maintaining distance between family groups. You are welcome to enjoy fellowship time outside in the parking lot.*

**POSTLUDE**

(Text used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #11886-S)

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**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, December 5, 2021**

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Gladys Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Anita Philp
- Lectors: Anita Philp
- Acolyte: Will Radtke
- Greeters: Sue Gilnett
- Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Charlie Bennett
- Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
- Counters: Becky Collie & LeRoy Albertson

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# *Announcements*

## **PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week. Please call or email him to set up an appointment, at 507-360-7276 and/or [messiahmechpr@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com).

## **ALL SOULS RETURNING TO THE SANCTUARY**

A reminder to all that our friends from All Souls have returned to the sanctuary and their former worship time. Messiah's adult class will move back to the room by the kitchen. Please note that the All Souls folks will exit out the side door of the sanctuary after their worship service concludes. Messiah folks: please wait to enter the sanctuary from the narthex until the All Souls folks have completely exited. Thank you!

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex to order your Christmas Poinsettia(s). The last day to sign-up is **today**. Help us make our sanctuary look festive for this Christmas Season by signing up for yours today!

## **HOLY DARKNESS: AN ADVENT STUDY**

Adapted from an Advent worship series, the theme of this study embraces the darkness of the long Advent nights as a place where we encounter the beauty and mystery of God. While darkness has sometimes been used as a negative foil for light, contrasting evil with good or God's absence with God's presence, our scripture and assembly song is filled with imagery in which the darkness is filled with the glory of God. The quiet character of Advent with its themes of listening, waiting, and expectation lends itself to these reflections. Each session will include scripture study, music, and other activities. The third installment, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, is called "Darkness Holds Promise."

### **WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Here is this week's information based on our 2021 budget.

Contributions to the general fund averaged \$2,779.96 (slightly down from \$2,819.86 through November 28, 2021).

We are \$58,129.76 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$55,043.76 last time reported).

Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

### **COUNTERS NEEDED**

If you would be able to help count donations after services, please contact Bill Weaver at [wweaver701@comcast.net](mailto:wweaver701@comcast.net) or 804-908-3861.

### **NO ROOM AT THE INN NATIVITY EXHIBIT AND FUNDRAISER**

Celebrate Joy Give Hope 14th annual No Room at the Inn Exhibit of 200 Nativity sets from around our world to celebrate the birth of Christ & benefit our neighbors in need of housing. Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville 12/3-12/5. Preview Gala-Exhibit-Children's take home activities. Visit [churchredeemer.org/no-room](http://churchredeemer.org/no-room) or call 730-7980 for details. Like and Share us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/No-Room-At-The-Inn-Mechanicsville-VA](https://www.facebook.com/No-Room-At-The-Inn-Mechanicsville-VA).

### **THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR: CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

Join the NLC this holiday season online for their 36th annual Christmas Festival, **The Earth Adorned**. A livestream of the concert will be available for free to all on the [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) website at **8 pm CT on December 10**. During **The Earth Adorned**, we will view the birth of Christ alongside the beauty of this world through works for choir and instruments including Aaron David Miller's *Chanticleer*, Paul John Rudoj's *Orbit Carol*, and the *Creation Suite* by Dr. Larry Fleming. The Earth Adorned will include the singing of carols, recitations of poetry, and more from the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, MN. Visit [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) to watch.

**WILD WOMEN RETREAT JAN. 14-16, 2022 AT CAROLINE FURNACE**

We are hopeful that you will join us for a weekend of fellowship and renewal at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center. The weekend includes a trip off-property to a local winery, craft and outdoor activities, prayer conversations, and more. *Rates: Weekend \$115 | Day \$30. Retreat cost includes modern-rustic lodging, scratch-made meals, and Saturday transportation.* Link to register:

<https://www.carolinefurnace.org/wild-women-series>

**MESSIAH RECEIVES .5% DONATION WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!**

Even though the most recent holiday shopping season is behind us, the Stewardship team would like to remind everyone to sign up and use Amazon Smile! Signing up is easy and does not interfere with Prime Membership benefits. Amazon donates .5% of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Step 1: visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com); Step 2: sign in with your amazon account credentials; Step 3: Search for "Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville"; Step 4: Start SHOPPING! \*please remember to bookmark [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) for easy access every time you shop. You must add the "smile" for this program. Thank you all and happy shopping!