



Several times leading into and surrounding the birth of Jesus, the Gospels record angels bringing the message from God “Do not be afraid.” We will explore some of these “fear not” messages as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. They are particularly relevant in a world where there is so many things that could cause us fear or anxiety.

Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

7:00 PM

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH



(Hymns are from *The Celebration Hymnal*)

PRELUDE **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN

(Please Stand)

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#244

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.

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.

THE INVOCATION

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth will declare your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE PSALM READING

P: The Reading for this evening is from Psalm 93.

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is

mighty! Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

THE RESPONSORY

P: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.

C: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

P: Unite my heart to fear your name that I may walk in your truth.

C: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

HYMN

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" #272, vs. 1,2,5

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind,
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.

“All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace.
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease, begin and never cease!”

MESSAGE “Fear Not, Where You Stand with God”

In the midst of the darkness stood shepherds, guarding sheep throughout the watches of the night. Suddenly the brightest of lights breaks through the darkness as an angel of the Lord appears with an announcement to make. What would you do? Would you be afraid? Perhaps the shepherds had reason to be afraid: theirs was a dirty job, one which left them virtually in a state of being ceremonially unclean – not fit to stand before God in His temple. And yet, to them comes the earliest announcement of Messiah’s birth. Fear not. The Deliverer is born. This is Good News that brings joy! While none of us deserves to have God come to us, the Good News is that His Son has come to dispel the darkness. How will you share this Good News?

VOLUNTARY “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Cathy Carson

As we listen to the Voluntary, we ask that each worship household fill out the attendance “Green Card,” located in your ministry folder. Please place them in the offering plate when you leave. Thank you.

THE PRAYERS

- P: Let my prayers rise before you as incense,
C: **And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
A: **Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**
A: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P: O Lord, hear my prayer.
C: **And let my cry come to you.**

Special petitions may be spoken by the Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: 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.

P: O Lord God, the life of all the living, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, the repose of the blessed dead, grant us a peaceful night free from all disturbance that after a time of quiet slumber we may, by your goodness, be endued in the new day with the guidance of your Holy Spirit and enabled in peace to render thanks to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C: Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN "Go Tell It on the Mountain" #258

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold! Throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

THE POSTLUDE

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"



Advent Services

Wednesday, December 8th at 7 PM

Wednesday, December 22nd at 7 PM

Children's Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 15th at 7 PM

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

Contemporary Candlelight Communion service @ 5 PM

Traditional Candlelight Communion service @ 7 PM

Traditional Candlelight Communion service @ 11 PM

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th

Communion Service @ 10 AM

No Saturday Evening Service on December 25th

Sunday, December 26th - 10:00 am ONLY

Service of Lessons & Carols

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31st

Communion Service @ 7 PM