



# Savior of the Nations

The Invitation

Mid-Week Advent Service

December 2, 2020

*Advent is a time in the church of waiting and watching: for the Christ child, for peace to come to earth, for the return of our Savior who promised he would come again in glory. It is a time when we push aside the consumer driven season and embrace the quiet and solitude of God's holy presence in our lives.*

# Zion Lutheran Church

210 North Wayne Street  
St. Marys, OH 45885

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## ATTENTION ALL WORSHIPERS AT ZION

My friends in Christ: Because of the Coronavirus, we have made some changes in our worship procedures for the health and safety of all who worship at Zion. If you are a visitor, we really are glad you are worshiping with us today and we do not wish to appear to be unfriendly, but your health and safety are our concern as well, and we hope you will understand why we may not shake your hand.

- **Instead of shaking hands or giving hugs at the Passing of the Peace, greet your neighbor verbally.**
- **Instead of holding hands for the "Post-Communion Blessing" we will simply stand as it is given.**
- **I will not be in back on your way out of service so people can exit out of the church with ease.**

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Bill

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*(please stand when indicated by \*)*

**Prelude**      *O come, O come, Emmanuel*      Hughes

## **Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Hymn** *"Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 1-3)*    Insert

## **\*Opening Dialog**

P    Let us quiet our minds and hearts and observe a few moments of silence.

*(Silence is kept for meditation and preparation for worship.)*

P    O Lord, open my lips,

C    **And my mouth will declare your praise. (Psalm 51)**

P Make haste, O Lord, to deliver me.

**C May all who seek you rejoice and be glad. (Psalm 70)**

P Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**C As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen. Thanks be to God!**

L A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter, verses 1-7.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading                      Isaiah 9:1-7**

“But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His son.**

P A reading from John, the first chapter, verses 1-14.

**Gospel Reading      John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon/Reflection**

Pastor Bill

**The Invitation**

*(Silence is kept for meditation and prayer.)*

## **\*Confession & Absolution**

P Let us confess our sins:

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen"

P Be at peace. Your sins are forgiven by the blood of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

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.

The  
LORD'S  
Prayer

## **Prayer**

**P** O God, from you comes all efforts and all desires to do what is holy in this human life. You are the One source of anything good that we may accomplish. Grant us the everlasting peace which only you can give. Stir up our hearts so that we might be obedient disciples of your Son. Defend us from all harm, cast out fear, and protect us from our enemies, so that we may spend this night in quiet and rest. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

**C Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **Distribution**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

### **\* Benediction and Dismissal**

**P** Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C Amen.**

**P** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C to sing praise to your name, O Most High God;**

**P** to herald your love in the morning,

**C your truth at the close of the day.**

**P** Let us now bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God!**

**Sending Hymn** *"Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 4-6)* Insert

**Postlude**

*Postlude for Full Organ*

Wilson

## Tonight, December 2

**ACOLOYTE:** Braylon Lampert

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Darl Bishir, Cheryl Macklem

**CRUCIFER:** Zach Hesse

**USHERS:** Chris White, Jeanne Wurster

**READER:** Paula Ankerman

## Next Wednesday, December 9

**ACOLOYTE:** Bennett Glass

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Jody Slemmons

Pam Fledderjohann

**CRUCIFER:** Kendra Rothe

**USHERS:** Steve & Dora McAfee

**READER:** Stanley Brown

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PIANIST .....	Miriam Johns, Debbie Brown
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