

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

December 22, 2024 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

CANTATA - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE



ELCA

Edie Hill, Harpist

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Hark The Herald Angel Sing"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Red Hymnal #270

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, **"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."**

Mary said, My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

You, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm

and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,

to remember the promise of mercy,

the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

SONG OF PRAISE "The Angela Gabriel From Heaven Came" Red Hymnal #265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:

"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;

"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.

"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY ^

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming,

“But you, O Zion, from you shall come forth for me.”

What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world.

As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

SONG

“Christ, Be Our Light” (vs1-vs4)

Red Hymnal #715

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain*
3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain*
4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

2024 Christmas Cantata

“Tidings of Comfort and Joy!”

Arr. by Lloyd Larson

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Words & Music by Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne

Arranged by Harry Simeone

“Carol of the Bells”

Music by M. Leontovich

Arr. by Peter J. Wilhousky

“In The Manger”

Words and Music by Dave Clark

Arr. by Camp Kirkland

“My Jesus I Love Thee”

Words and Music by William R. Featherson

Arr. by Camp Kirkland

“Let Heaven and Nature Sing”

Arr. by Dennis Allen

2024 Cantata Participants

Sonja Beach
Michael Beert
Jeff Campbell
Edie Hill
Jack Hill
Mattsen Heller
Molly Heller
Valerie Hogle
Daniel Krug
Tim Krug
Jim Rasch
Kathy Rasch
Olivia Simpson
Pastor Michael Thomas
Tammy Thomas
Bella Torres
Haylee West

Rachel Handlin - Violin
Tom Marken – Drums
Jim McDowell – Bass
Jodi Beach – Piano

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 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 OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING

"Christmas Hallelujah" Soloist: Valerie Hoglund

(words and music by Leonard Cohen)

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion.

The Offering Box is near the piano, by the Prayer Table.

You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com or you can click on the QR code.

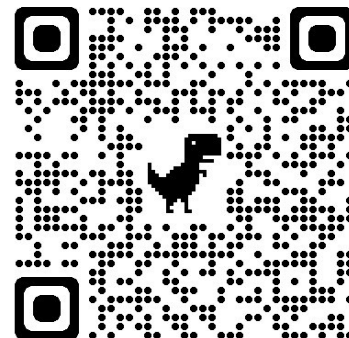


TABLE BLESSING

“This is Christ’s Body”

(from ACS #967)



This is Christ’s bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with



mer-cy and love. We are Christ’s bod - y,



bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand. The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear. There are individual communion kits in the middle. Dispose of them in the lobby.

COMMUNION

“Go”

(arranged by Stephen Nelson)
Soloists: Mattsen & Molly Heller

“Away in the Manger Medley”

(arranged by Mark Hayes)
Zion Combo

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG "Joy To The World"

Red Hymnal #267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

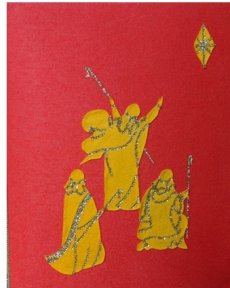
Carol of the Bells arr. by Mark Hayes

Joy Fund

DONATIONS FOR
ELCA
HURRICANE RELIEF

Checks made out to Zion Lutheran Church

2024



Christmas
Eve
Worship
10:00 pm

9:30pm String
Quartet Concert



NURSE JORI—My goal in this role is not only to serve you with the greatest care and love, but to get to know all of you so that I can provide the best care possible. My office is located next to the nursery at the end of the hall, past the kitchen. My office hours are 10am-12pm Monday and Wednesday. Please stop by and say hi! If you are unable to come see me, please give the church a call and leave a voicemail for me, call me on my cell at 630.465.2135, or email me at Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org. I can come see you if you are unable to travel to me!

WORSHIP LEADERS Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOZ-- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Date: During December we are requesting donations of **Peanut Butter and Jelly** for distribution at the Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. Thank you so much for your help!

MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY at Zion, 9:30am in the Nursery. The Books “A is for Alabaster”, a devotional that anyone can order.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups

ANNUAL REPORTS - For those committee chairs, partners and staff we ask you to submit your annual report in writing or email to Jolyn at zionrockford@gmail.com. Please add any photos of events you have held throughout the year! We ask for these reports to be submitted as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact Jolyn by email or phone the office.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Communion Assistant

Connie Heden

Reader

Media Person

Sound Booth

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>

facebook

YouTube

follow us on
twitter

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones: Lisa Palmeno, Trudy Clark
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Darleen Bates, David Bates, Jessica Brown, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Bennie & Mairetha Jackson, Gary Johnson, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Brian Veitch and Gary Wegner, Jr.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Christmas Cantata
Tuesday	10:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship (9:30pm String Quartet)
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
Monday	1:00pm	Bagging at Zion for Cornucopia Pantry

UPCOMING

January 12	11:00am	Celebrating Dreams Gospel Jamboree
January 19	10:30am	Annual Report review at 10:30am
January 26	10:30am	Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
February 11, 2025		RVC English as a second language resumes

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can volunteer
as little as 2 hours a month
Pantry is Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,
and the Third Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am.
Contact Peggy King at Cornucopia, 815.962.1380.

Cornucopia



Food Pantry

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* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

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