

✠ Announcements ✠

Last Week (12/13) WH – 32 Orlando – 12 **Total Offering** = \$4,250

General = \$4,150 | CLC Missions = \$50 | Building Fund = \$50

Usher: Steve | **Cleaner (12/26):** Bernthal | **Acolyte (12/27):** Mason

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 21-26, '20.

Mon 2 Samuel 7:8-16 Via His spokesman Nathan, God vowed to continue His program of blessing David personally (8-9), planting Israel in safe harbor (10-11), and making a house for David via his son Solomon (12-13). Now, since God promised that David's house, kingdom, and throne would be established forever—it sounds like He is predicting Jesus' arrival and successful mission.

Tues Luke 1:26-38 It was Gabriel's turn to announce that Jesus would arrive in due time via the twin miracles of divine conception and birth from a virgin mother (26-31), thus implementing His divine destiny (32-33). How can all this be possible? Well, God is good at miracles (as Elizabeth was discovering), for *with God nothing can ever be impossible* (37). Case closed (38).

Wed Romans 16:25-27 How do these miracles impact upon our narrowing circumstances? *God is able to establish us* via His potent method of accessing our human hearts, has set His mind to our salvation and told us about it, (25-26)—thus enlarging our narrow lives. Since *God alone is wise* enough to boomerang Satan via Jesus Christ, *to Him be glory forever more*. Amen!

Thurs Isaiah 9:2-7 God's Christmas Light shined into humanity's darkness (2) (a greater miracle than any of Israel's earthly successes 3-5) when God sent Jesus to our planet as its Governor and as loving Magistrate (6) over His people—once and for all (7).

Christmas Day! John 1:1-14 It's no longer top secret that Jesus has always been a member of the Holy Trinity/Godhead (1-2); He functioned as co-Creator of the Universe (3) and He continues to be our power-plant (4-5)—as John the Baptizer has made crystal clear (6-8). Although He doesn't manage to enlighten everyone (9-11), as many as received Him, to them (us!) Jesus has granted the privilege to become children of God (12-13). Christmas is glorious because Jesus is glorious (14)—and we share in His glory.

Sat Hebrews 1:1-12 The subject is still Jesus, whom some misidentified as an archangel. Just to clarify: Jesus is divine and Co-Creator, but He lowered Himself to *purge our sins* before He returned home (1-3). Secondly, He is superior to angels in every way imaginable (4-7)—especially in authority and privileged responsibilities (8). In addition, the Universe is not meant to last forever but will perish by the direct order of Jesus, its Supervisor (10-11). In contrast, Jesus will continue in good health and strength—for the good reason that He is Creator of the laws of nature and therefore is not subject to (but superior to) the laws of nature. An angelic creature He is not!

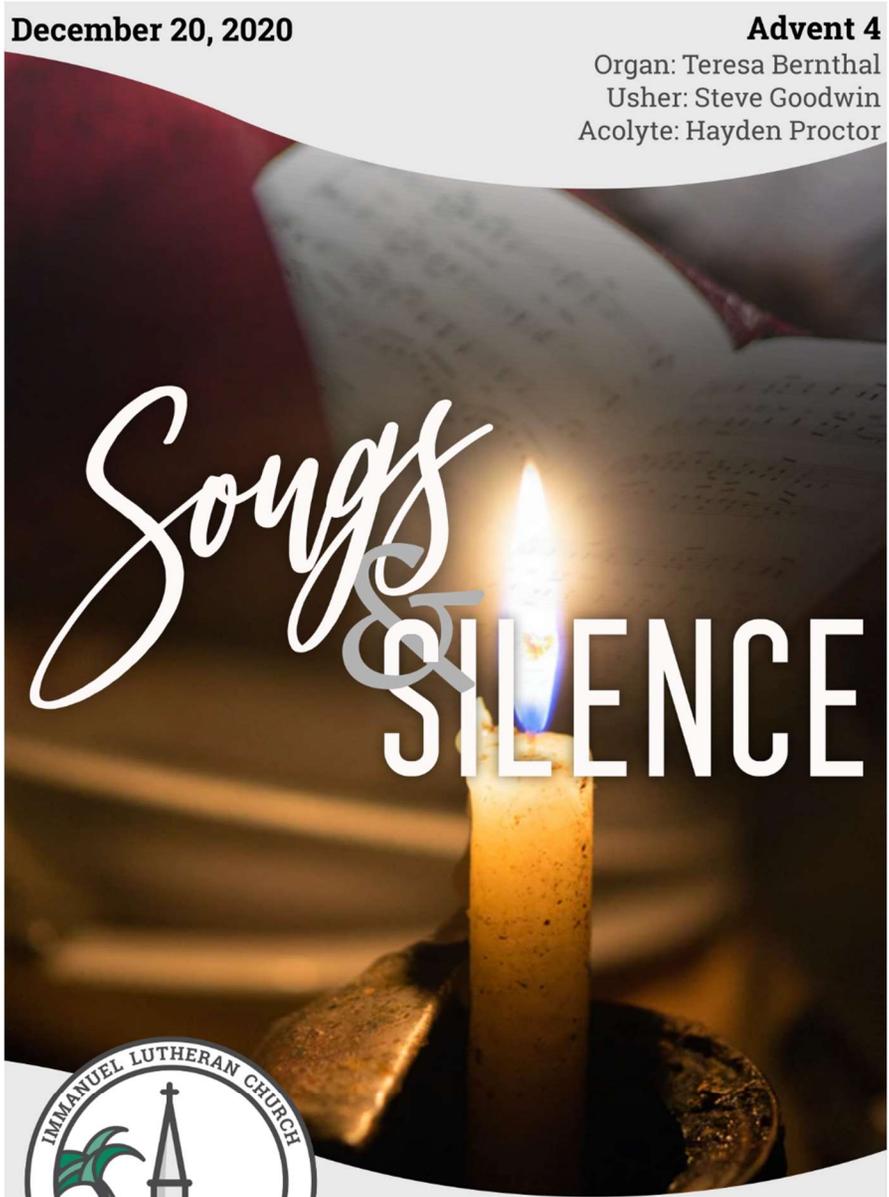
Looking Ahead...

- ✠ **Dec. 27:** Orlando Service 8 am
- ✠ **Jan. 3:** Masks-on Service 9 am
- ✠ **Jan. 3:** Communion
- ✠ **Jan. 3:** Annual Voters' Meeting
- ✠ **Jan. 8:** Christmas Eve 7 pm

December 20, 2020

Advent 4

Organ: Teresa Bernthal
Usher: Steve Goodwin
Acolyte: Hayden Proctor



Songs & SILENCE



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Songs and Silence

Advent is a time of preparation. A common preparation for Christmas comes in the form of Christmas songs. Christmas tunes fill the airwaves this time of year, and we all have a few favorite go-to's. However, silence is also an important tool during our Advent preparations. This is a time of year to silence our thoughts and mediate on God's Word. This Advent, we'll be making use of both Songs and Silence. On the four Sundays of Advent we will be considering the four songs of Christmas. During our Wednesday Evening services we will be considering three lessons of silence.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #108:1-4 "We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise"

1. We sing, Immanuel, Thy praise,
Thou Prince of Life and Fount of grace,
Thou Flower of heaven and Star of morn,
Thou Lord of lords, Thou Virgin-born.
Hallelujah!
2. For Thee, since first the world was made,
So many hearts have watched and prayed;
The patriarchs' and prophets' throng
For Thee have hoped and waited long.
Hallelujah!
3. Now art Thou here, Thou Ever-blest!
In lowly manger dost Thou rest.
Thou, making all things great, art small;
So poor art Thou, yet clothest all.
Hallelujah!
4. From Thee above all gladness flows,
Yet Thou must bear such bitter woes;
The Gentiles' Light and Hope Thou art,
Yet findest none to soothe Thine heart.
Hallelujah!



P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ A - - - men.

OFFERTORY

- C** ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

HYMN: WS #715

"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

1. Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred,
but there is room and welcome there for me,
but there is room and welcome there for me.
2. In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
sweet newborn babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.
3. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
4. Can I, will I forget how love was born, and burned
its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
to die, to live, and not alone for me,
to die, to live, and not alone for me?



PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- C** ♪ Amen, amen, a – men.

HYMN: TLH #94:1-2

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim.
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!" | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!" |
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CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #98:1-3 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

- 1. Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years
shall see Evermore and evermore.**
- 2. Oh, that birth forever blessed When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred
face Evermore and evermore.**
- 3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and
King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

SERMON – Luke 2:8-14 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

"This is the Song that Never Ends"

- I. This is the Song that promises more
- II. This is the Song that we'll continue singing

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- C** ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
- C** ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- C** ♪ **A - - - men.**

INTROIT

Ps. 93:1-2, 5; Is. 9:2

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
- C** **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**
- P** The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.
- C** **Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.**
- P** Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.
- C** **Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.**
- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
- C** **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 2:11

P Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

C ♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!



P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪ A - - - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 49:1-6 Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God." ⁵ And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him-- for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength-- ⁶ he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Revelation 5:8-14 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.