



Sunday, December 7, 2025

10:00 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Advent



“On the Road with G.O.D.”

Pastor Erik Allen

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Variations on Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

M. Burkhardt

Announcements

Gathering Song

Emmanuel

Call to Worship

L: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel,

C: **Prepare us for your coming.**

P: We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows. O Emmanuel,

C: **Prepare us for your coming.**

P: We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth, and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends. O Emmanuel,

C: **Prepare us for your coming.**

P: We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus, asking him to sort through all our mixed motives. O Emmanuel,

C: **Prepare us for your coming.**

P: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with your prevailing peace.

C: **Amen.**

Second Candle of Advent is Lit

Candle Lighting Song

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord!

A voice cries out in the wilderness

“Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord.”

O come little children, And light the candle of peace

For Jesus is coming, so have faith and believe.

Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord!

Make straight in the dessert a highway,

A highway for our God, a highway for our God

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

C: **And also with you.**

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

Wait

Call to Confession

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: **Amen.**

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Long-expected God,

C: **We confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.
✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

please be seated

Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Pastor Erik

Sermon

"On the Road with G.O.D."

Pastor Erik

The Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.**

please be seated

The Offering

The Offering Response

“Blessed is the One”

ACS 929

Offertory Prayer

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Judy, Marion, Kelly, Jeff, Lee, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Chris, Sylvia, Bill, Ken, Dana, Marie, Mary, Carol, Susan, Bob

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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!

P: At this table God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

please be seated

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Benediction

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen!

Song

Soon and Very Soon

Sending

P: Go in peace. Keep awake!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Rudolph Moser

Announcements

Family Advent Devotions

Please stop by the table near the Sanctuary or the Hospitality Center to pick up a Family Advent Devotion. A stable, along with all our favorite manger friends included!

Midweek Advent Services & Lunch

Please plan to join us this Wednesday, December 10th in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 for a light lunch (grilled cheese and soup this week!) followed by worship in the Sanctuary at noon. All are invited! Questions? See Pastor Erik.

Hanging of the Greens Saturday

Thanks to those who helped decorate our Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season!

Christmas Program Sunday, December 14

Plan to join us for a special service on December 14 where our children will present "Just a Little Christmas" a short Christmas play with a fun take on the Christmas story. We'll also have special music followed by a pitch-in in Fellowship Hall. You should have received a Flocknote with signup options ... from help with setup, food, serving, etc. It'll be quite the "family" celebration.

Pledges

Thank you to all who have returned pledge cards/commitments for the upcoming year. If you haven't had a chance to respond you can drop your pledge in the mail (or by the office), make your commitment on the website, or you can contact Neisha to give your pledge by phone - - 317-846-1555 (ext 3). You each are the reason we are able to minister here at the "corner" of 106th & Keystone.

Altar Poinsettias

Would you like to help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve by purchasing a poinsettia? The cost is \$12.00 per plant. Complete the form below and drop it off in the office (or in the offering plate or however you contribute to the ministries of KOG) noting Poinsettia. You may take your plant home any time after the 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service (please do take one!)

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Your Name _____

Amount Enclosed _____



WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: The Lord Is Yet to Come Again

During the season of Advent, we don't just consider the First Coming of Jesus; we also look to His Second Coming. The birth of the Messiah was promised of old and fulfilled when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, lived, died, and rose from the dead. Just as we know the first coming was promised and then fulfilled, our certainty of the Second Coming of Jesus is built upon the promise that Christ will come again. As his followers we continue to abide in this hope.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:25–36 The Coming of Christ

Jesus says that we should watch ourselves lest our hearts be weighed down with the cares of this life. There are certainly plenty of cares of life in this season. It is easy to allow them to cause anxiety and worry. It always seems that there is too much to do and not enough time to do it in! The answer to this is Jesus' call that we "stay awake at all times, praying that you may have the strength." Christ has come into the world and will come again so that we need not be weighed down. Christ's burden is light, and Christ gives us the strength to endure the cares of this life. *Dear Jesus, lift me up that I may not be weighed down by the cares of this life. Amen.*

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 42 Proceeding to the House of God

How natural it is to doubt God in times of suffering! All that is evil and the ways of this world are quick to ask, "Where is your God? Either God is angry with you, or God cares nothing for you, or God does not exist at all." While we all too frequently hear those voices as Christians we are to turn from those voices, and instead, like the psalmist, enter the "house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving..." For there we find God's Word, which strengthens us even in times of doubt and sorrow so that we may be renewed in our hope for the Lord Jesus. *O God, save us from the oppression of our enemy and comfort us with your steadfast love. Amen.*

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:4–13 Our Lord Sustains Us

Christ came as a servant—the greatest of all servants—both to the Jews and the Gentiles. To put it more succinctly, Christ came as a servant to all. As we wait for Christ's coming again in glory, the flesh can become weary, wondering if we have the strength to endure to the end. So God has given us the Word and it is that Word that encourages us and grants the endurance to abide in Christ until the end. Don't look to your own strength; that will surely fail. Instead, receive from God the forgiveness of sins and the promise of salvation that allow us to live in harmony with one another and in accord with Christ Jesus—so that we may glorify God, no matter our ills, until the great day of Christ's coming. *God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Micah 4:1–7 World Peace

At the United Nations building in New York there is a bronze statue of a man wielding a hammer, beating a sword into a ploughshare. The statue was a gift to the United Nations from the Soviet Union in 1959. The irony of a biblical allusion by a militantly atheistic country notwithstanding, the meaning is clear: through diplomacy and intervention, organizations like the UN seek the possibility of lasting peace. A worthy goal, no doubt. But the true and lasting peace preached by Micah is found in Christ and in Christ's forgiveness—found in the gathering of all peoples where God is present with God's people. Work for peace. But remember: there is only one Prince of Peace. *Jesus, be our Sovereign. Reign in us. Amen.*

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26–35 Name Him Jesus

The angel Gabriel from heaven came to Mary. "Rejoice!" This news is not only joy for Mary but for the entire world. "You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall name him Jesus... That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." In Jesus, God takes on human life. God has a birth. God has a mother. God takes on a body. And all of this is so that God may share fully in our humanity—even unto death—for our salvation. The Son of God becomes the Son of Mary so that Jesus may be our Savior. And Mary is not the only one who finds favor with God; in Christ, we also receive God's favor and mercy. *O God, we thank you that you took on our humanity and our sin to win for us heavenly favor and mercy. Amen.*

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Romans 2:1–16 No Excuse

Paul's preaching is meant to confront us honestly and directly: "You are without excuse, whoever you are..." Those who know the law—the Ten Commandments—do not keep it. Those who do not know the law in that same way, yet have its intent written on their hearts and consciences, do not keep it either. Throughout this chapter and much of the next, Paul makes it clear: all of us fall short. None of us are righteous by our own efforts. The Law cannot save us. In hearing this word of Law, we learn to say, "Yes—this is true." We acknowledge our sin and our need. Left to ourselves at the coming of Christ, we could not stand. And yet, in Romans 3. Paul's proclamation does not end with judgment. It turns to the heart of the Gospel: the righteousness of God given to us as a gift, through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. In Christ, God meets us with mercy, not condemnation. Let this be our comfort and our joy! *Merciful God, be gracious to me, a sinner. Amen.*

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 91 We Walk with Angels All the Way

This is the psalm that the devil misused in the temptation of Jesus, but the devil's abuse does not negate God's good purpose in giving these words. God desires that we be comforted and encouraged in knowing that God has commanded the heavenly hosts to be our guards and protectors. What an honor to think that we walk with angels all the way! Though sin, death, and the devil pursue us, we need not fear. As Luther reminds us in his morning and evening prayers, the Most High commands the holy angels concerning us, to guard us in all our ways and finally to bring us to our heavenly home. *We praise you, O God, for the protection you provide. Amen.*