

Email Blast for December 17



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### **Kent Memorial Lutheran Church**

184 Sunset Hill Drive  
Sunrise Beach, Missouri 65079

**The Rev. Edward L. Foster, Pastor**

**December 17, 2023**

Hearing God's Call & Responding in Love,  
We Share Jesus With All!

#### **FROM PASTOR ED**

Our Gospel lesson this week again focuses on John the Baptist. When John appeared with his message of repentance and forgiveness and baptizing people in the Jordan, everyone wanted to know who he was. Was he the Messiah, or Elijah or one of the other prophets? John insists that his only mission is to prepare the way of the one who is so much greater than himself. In his own flamboyant way, John pointed away from himself to Jesus. How do our lives direct people's attention to their Lord and savior? How are we, like John, preparers of the Lord's way?

## OUR WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE ZOOM:

To join a worship service, please contact the church at 573-374-5267 for assistance.

# Welcome to Worship

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

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### Prelude

*Let There Be Peace On Earth*

Margo Strothmann

*You are invited to use this time of musical offering to prepare for worship, to open yourself to God, our Father, his Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, present in this place.*

### Invocation and Opening Dialog

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Show us your mercy, O Lord,

**C: and grant us your salvation.**

P: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world,

**C: for only in you can we live in safety.**

P: Shower, O heavens, from above,

**C: and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

P: Come, O Lord, at evening with light,

**C: and in the morning, with glory, to guide our feet in the way of peace.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity and bring light to this broken world, let us come before God without fear to make our confession.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Comforting God,

**C: We confess before you and in the presence of one another that we are sinners who fail to live as you desire. So often we place our trust in ourselves and not in you. We do not love each other as you commanded. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us. In your boundless patience and mercy, lead us to live by faith in your promise. Amen.**

P: God’s love for us is greater than our sins. God promises full pardon and complete forgiveness to all who turn from sin and place their trust in Christ, the light of the world. Hear and believe the Good News that all your sins are forgiven. Amen.

**Sharing of the Peace** (We share the words, “Peace be with you” with one another.)

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

**C: And also with you.**

### Gathering Hymn

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW # 264, v. 1 & 2

### Liturgy *Setting 4*

ELW p. 147

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

**C: And also with you.**

## Kyrie

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Canticle of Praise:** Glory to God in the highest

ELW p. 148

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

**C: Lord, God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

**All: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

Pastor Ed

## Lighting the Advent Candle

P: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:6)

**C: Jesus, said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)**

P: Come again O Lord of Peace.

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

ELW # 240, v. 3

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

## Anthem

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Kent Handbells

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Old Testament p. 708

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 126** (congregation reads responsively)

**<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.**

<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

<sup>3</sup>**The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup>**Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**Second Reading**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

New Testament p. 196

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Announcement**

Pastor Ed Foster

P: The gospel according to John, the first chapter

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel Reading**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

New Testament p. 86

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

Pastor Ed Foster

**Hymn of the Day**

*People, Look East*

ELW # 248, v. 1 & 4

**Profession of Faith—Apostle's 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 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.**

**The Prayers**

P: Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

**Reception of Offerings** *Please fill out the red friendship pad and pass it to your neighbor*

**Offertory**

*Gloria*, from Cantata No. 140, J.S. Bach

Margo Strothmann

**Offering Prayer**

P: God our provider,

**C: by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Holy Communion**

ELW p. 152

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

**Words of Institution**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Distribution**

*Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink. Communion is open to all who believe that Jesus Christ is our savior. Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. You may commune in place using a communion kit, if preferred.*

**Communion Hymns**

*Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us  
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn  
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

ELW # 707

ELW # 242

ELW # 708

**Post-Communion Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Announcements**

**Sending Hymn**

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

ELW # 547

**The Dismissal**

P: Hearing God's call and responding in love,

**C: we share Jesus with all!**

**Postlude**

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

Margo Strothmann

**Fellowship Time**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor ..... Ed Foster  
Organist/Pianist ..... Margo Strothmann  
Choir Director ..... Tracy Garrett  
Handbells Director ..... Katie Heaford

### 10:00 AM

Altar Guild ..... Sheryl Boos  
Greeters/Ushers ..... Mary Evans & Karen Stanze  
Liturgist ..... Vanessa Hebrank  
Lector ..... Mary Foster  
Sound & Zoom Technician ..... Larry Fair  
Coffee Fellowship ..... Larry Lutjen

## COMING THIS WEEK

December 17-24

Today	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School & Bible Study for all ages
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion (live-streamed)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship (coffee & donuts)
		Handbells Rehearsal
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	6:00 p.m.	Advent Worship & Potluck
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sunday		CHRISTMAS EVE
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion (live-streamed)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship (coffee & donuts)
		Handbells Rehearsal
	5:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship (live-streamed)

## † *Prayer Concerns* †

### OUR MEMBERS

Allan Burke	Bill Work
Pat Embich	Joel Hellman
Karen Thompson—health concerns	Gene Page—health concerns
Judy Bradley—minor health issues	Toni Wagner
Jim Kruse	

### OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Doris Peterson (Tracey Atzeni's mother)  
Theresa White—health concerns (friend of Susan Clark)  
Debbie McDermott—health concerns (friend of Susan Clark)  
Jim Marco—serious health concerns (Kathleen Marco's father)  
Beth Jackson—health concerns (niece of Blomberg & Poretta)

*Christian condolences & hope are offered to Greg Hall on the death of Barb on December 16.*

### **CONTINUED PRAYERS**

Cheryl Anderson	Ginger Frazier	Barry Mabe
Dana Anderson	Ken Gerardy	Larry Mausbach
Michelle Becker	Carla Glusing	Dave & Sara Newton
Jessica Birdsong	Ruth Goddard & family	Steve O'Connor
Cody Blasberg	Lyn Golvig	Jennifer Pedersen
Marcille Bohling	Gary Hansen	Zach Rezac
Cindy Campbell	Debbie Hanshaw	Ron Roberts
Shirley Clark	Linda Harris	Marcia Robbins
Evelyn Clements	Bryan Hastings	Dan Rogers
Duane & Grace Cridland	Rod Hayes	Pat & Shirley Rogers
Chuck Cuthbertson	Mike Holmes	Karen Tischnor
Mary Beth Fair	CF Huff	Bernie Wiegel
Ron Ferguson	Teresa Joslin	Jerry Williams
Stacey Flect	Linda Kimberling	Larry Wilson
Dave Fosler	Ed Krueger	
Shane Foster	Blanch Lacroix	

### **REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

Christopher Babcock	Aaron Davis	Matt Lee
Eric Blomberg	Tanner Glodt	Jordan Lindeman
Ben Brammeier	Kristine Hubbard	Glenn Maddock
Shade Bullock	Jason Ites	Tristan Morgan
Salathiel (Sal) Caudill	Jason Judge	Adam Peterson
Dylan Craig	Adam Kralina	Trent Simmons

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 17**

**WELCOME TO KENT MEMORIAL** Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. Communion is open to all who believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior. Personal hearing assistance devices are available in the sound room. We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship (and donuts!) after the service. If you are visiting for the first time or searching for a church home, please include your address and phone number on the Red Friendship Pad and let us know. First time here? Please introduce yourself to Pastor Ed at the end of the service.

**CARE CORE** for December is Linda Williams, 573-374-9147.

**MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE & POTLUCK** continues this Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 p.m. The theme is "Angels From the Realms of Glory: Joseph." A potluck will follow the service. Budget & Finance and Long-Range Planning Committees will host.

**DEDICATE A POINSETTIA** The Altar Guild is again offering the opportunity to dedicate one of the poinsettias in our Sanctuary. The dedications will be recognized in the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service bulletin. To dedicate a poinsettia, please fill out the pink form (found in the Gathering Place and the church office). Please print so the dedication is correct. Forms due today, December 17. Cost is \$18. Checks may be made to Kent Altar Guild.

### **CFC FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Cereals - hot and cold  
Condiments like catsup, mustard, salad dressings, mayo  
Taco & chili seasonings  
Chef Boyardee canned meals  
Egg noodles

CFC thanks you for your continued support throughout this last year, not only your donations of food, but with volunteering at the store. It's truly because of you that CFC is able to support our community!!

**GREATER LAKE AREA CHORALE** The final concert of the Christmas season in this afternoon, 2:00 p.m., at First Baptist Church in Eldon.