



SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527
website: www.zionstratford.com

Cell: 519-274-1300
email: zionlc@golden.net

People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Sandra Mogensen

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 9, 2022

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honour and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,

and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”
¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
¹¹O LORD, give strength ¹ to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: ACTS 8:14-17

A reading from Acts.

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1jRQGffD8CMVQgL3K>

Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff's sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading "Sermons")

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need (especially Elizabeth, Robert, Sharon, Susan, Nya, Dan, Jane, Maria, Bob, Brian, Murray, Mary, Lynnette, Al, Glenn, Beryl, Cathy, Jack, John, Katana, Ron, Brian, and Kolby). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

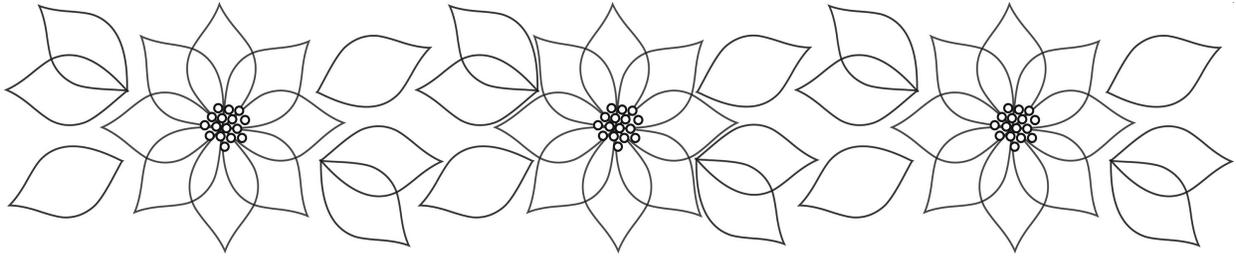
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

**AS A RESULT OF PREMIER FORD'S
ANNOUNCEMENT ON MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022:**

BISHOP PRYSE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT

ALL EASTERN SYNOD CONGREGATIONS SUSPEND

ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES

& OTHER GATHERINGS

“EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY”

FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST FOUR (4) WEEKS

AT WHICH TIME THE SITUATION WILL BE

REVIEWED AT THE END OF JANUARY, 2022

PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE AT

www.zionstratford.com

FOR UPDATES !!

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL: Nominations are now open for three (3) positions on Congregational Church Council. Your nominations can be submitted in advance of or in person at the Annual Meeting, which is slated for **Sunday, March 13, 2022**. Please send nominations to Kevin Tuer kevintuer@gmail.com or 519-273-6205 or to any other church council member.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Submissions for the Annual Report will be due on **Monday, January 31, 2022**. Committee Chairpersons are asked to write an article for the committee's events over the past year 2021.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER: Just a reminder that if you have "anything" that you would like published in the February Newsletter, submissions are due **Monday, January 10, 2022**. Thank You!!

AS WE MOVE FORWARD PLANNING FOR OUR RE-OPENING:

VOLUNTEERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND ARE NEEDED in order to celebrate our weekly Worship. If you are able to help us out by volunteering for any role (Usher, Reader, etc.), please contact Jane in the office 519-271-8527.

The Usher Schedule has recently been prepared and either

emailed or mailed out.

I am desperately needing a volunteer

to be Captain of our Team 6

**** Please call Jane in the office if you are able to help. Thank you!! ****

***A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO OUR CURRENT VOLUNTEERS
FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!!***

ESPECIALLY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES!!



As we face another set back during this pandemic, I would like to share this prayer that I came across.

A PRAYER FOR WHEN LIFE IS HARD

Dear Lord,

Thank you that you left us with the Holy Spirit to comfort us in times of trouble. Thank you that we can run to you at any time and find peace this world could never provide. We ask that you remind us that when trouble comes, we don't have to walk it alone and walk in despair. For in you, we can find peace. In you, we can find comfort.

Life is hard and you remind us that in this life, there will be trouble. Thank you for the truth of your Word that we can stand on when life seems too hard. Thank you, Jesus, for bearing death on the cross, so that this world of trouble won't last for eternity. Although life is hard, we can walk in victory with you.

We pray that you would make our way peaceful and fill us with encouragement and hope. Give us a heart of wisdom to lean on you during times of trouble and not seek things of this world that leave us feeling empty. When life gets too hard, please remind us of your glorious promise.

**In Jesus' Name,
Amen**