



December 25, 2022

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

Cell: 519-274-1300

email: zionlc@golden.net

website: www.zionstratford.com

People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Sandra Mogensen

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn 269: “Once in Royal David’s City”

Greeting

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Prayer of the Day:

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm Hymn: 283: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Sermon:

<https://youtu.be/9O8THTKNz0M>

Hymn 289: “Angels, We Have Heard on High”

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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MEAL

Offertory Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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Communion Prayer

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The Lord’s Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

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SENDING

Blessing

Hymn 275: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Dismissal

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Postlude

All people of faith and those who seek faith are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This morning, we will be distributing the Lord’s Supper in a continuous fashion. Trays holding individual cups of wine are on stands at either side of Pastor Jeff for those wishing to receive wine. The ushers will invite the congregation to come forward down the centre aisle. If you wish communion but are unable to come forward, please inform the usher and Pastor Jeff will come to your pew.

Please note that masks are “no longer mandatory”; but, continuing to wear a mask is strongly recommended. Our ropes for “limited” capacity have come down; but, we do encourage “social distancing” wherever possible. “Pre-registration” for worship is no longer required.

There are so many people to “**thank**” who have contributed so much to our worship experience this morning. We thank those who made the music, those who participated in our worship service any way, those who decorated the church sanctuary, those who donated towards the purchase of Christmas flowers. All of you have blessed us richly with your gift of time and talent. **God bless you all!**

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: “Thank you” to the following donators who have contributed to the purchase of the flowers used to decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas celebrations: *Judy Hammond; Joe & Irene*

West; Elfrieda Zimmermann; Ellen Wolfe & Bruce Mitchell; Robert & Bev Keutsch; Bob & Marilyn Wells; Brian & Barb Gropp; Brian & Pauline Schade; Paula McNaughton; Jean Weir; Tom & Joanne Cosstick; Wayne & Linda Faulhafer, Lynne Huras and The Quilting Ladies.

PLEASE NOTE that the office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, December 26th and Tuesday, December 27th for the Christmas holiday. We will reopen as usual on Wednesday, December 28th at 8:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: Your special "Christmas Offerings" have been designated to support the work of the Kiwanis CJCS Basket fund and Zion's Current Fund. Thank you for your gifts.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES: There are still some who have not picked up your 2023 Offering Envelopes. They are on a table as you enter the main entrance off of Erie Street by the courtyard. Please call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 any weekday morning if you can't find your offering envelopes or if you wish to start receiving them. You may also contact the office if you want to switch to **POP, the pre-authorized offering program**. Thank you!

THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Avrey, Paul, Tom, Darlene, Jack, Alan, Phyllis, Verlie, Brian, Anne, Sharon, Bruce, Susan, Nya, Jane, Linda, Donna, Brian, Jim, Lynnette, Al, Glenn, Brock, Cathy, Katana, Brian, David and Kolby;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023 AS WE WORSHIP

Greeter: Jim & Judy Stanley **Reader:** Sister Jean Widmeyer
Usher Captain: Darrell Renecker Team **Counter:** No Counters



THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

"And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" - Luke 1:46-47

During the modern Christmas holiday, there are many worldly distractions from the original meaning and reason for celebration: the birth of Jesus Christ. The busyness and stress of the holiday season end up crowding out the very peace and joy that is offered to us through Jesus Christ. Taking a moment to pray, read Christmas Bible verses, and sing Christmas hymns whether with family or alone in quiet time, can help us refocus on the true meaning of Christmas. Prayer centres us and reminds us of the things that are truly important in life.

Christmas Day Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, true God from true God, you became a little child for us so the world you made would be saved. Just as a child is born to us and a Son is given to us, may we be born again through you and always remain in the number of God's faithful children; through your merits, O blessed Saviour, with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.