

December 11, 2022 • Third Sunday in Advent
9:00 and 11:30am



Zion lutheran
church

WELCOME TO ZION

We are a historic church that loves being part of the vibrant, growing community of northwest San Antonio. We bring people together knowing we are fallible and imperfect, and we help share God's love and grace.

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our modern lives with Christ.

Faith is an ever-present curiosity. As we live our daily lives, we explore God's teachings and respond with God's love by serving our community, locally and globally. If you're looking for a church that has all the answers for you – well, that isn't us!

We are a community of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here! So come and join us as we explore life with God.

HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace - the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness life and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending.

Worship leaders guide us through sacrament and prayer and our responses are printed in bold type.

Throughout our service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. We invite you to receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or praise of God, rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • zion@zionsa.org

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.

THE ADVENT WREATH

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting happen amid the growing darkness of winter. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

Air and Variations from Suite No. 5 in E major by Handel

Nadia Soree
Harpsichord

Please rise, as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the candles are lit, we pray:

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.

You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.

Bless us as this light grows,

and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

Give us strength and patience,

trusting that you are true to your promises.

Transform the lives of all who suffer

with your wonders near at hand.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

9:00 CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 26: 1-10

¹On that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; he sets up victory like walls and bulwarks. ²Open the gates, so that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. ³Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace — in peace because they trust in you. ⁴Trust in the LORD forever, for in the Lord GOD you have an everlasting rock. ⁵For he has brought low the inhabitants of the height; the lofty city he lays low. He lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust. ⁶The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy. ⁷The way of the righteous is level; O Just One, you make smooth the path of the righteous. ⁸In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you; your name and your renown are the soul's desire. ⁹My soul yearns for you in the night, my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. ¹⁰If favor is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness they deal perversely and do not see the majesty of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:46B-55

Spark Children's Bible Page 202

Mary Visits Elizabeth

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

HOMILY

Pastor Kathi Johnson

*To preserve the integrity and flow of the music, and out of respect for the musicians,
please hold all applause.*

MESSIAH (PART 1)
Music by George Frederic Handel
Libretto by Charles Jennens

Scene 1 – Isaiah’s prophecy of salvation

Sinfonia – Orchestra

Accompagnato - Tenor

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40: 1-3)

Air – Tenor

Ev’ry valley shall be exalted, and ev’ry mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight and the rough places plain. (Isaiah 40: 4)

Chorus

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40: 5)

Scene 2 – The prophecy of the coming of Messiah

Accompagnato – Bass

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. (Haggai 2: 6-7)

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 3: 1)

Air – Soprano

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner’s fire. (Malachi 3: 2)

Chorus

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3: 3)

Scene 3 – The prophecy of the Virgin Birth

Recitative – Alto

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name
Emmanuel, God with us.
(Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23)

Alto Air and Chorus

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!
(Isaiah 40: 9)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
(Isaiah 60: 1)

Accompagnato – Bass

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people;
but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And
the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
(Isaiah 60: 2-3)

Air – Bass

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that
dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
(Isaiah 9: 2)

Chorus

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall
be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9: 6)

Scene 4 – The appearance of the Angels to the Shepherds

Pifa (Pastoral Symphony) – Orchestra

Recitative – Soprano

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. (Luke 2: 8)

Accompagnato – Soprano

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. (Luke 2: 9)

Recitative – Soprano

And the angel said unto them: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2: 10-11)

Accompagnato – Soprano

And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying: (Luke 2: 13)

Chorus

“Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.”
(Luke 2: 14)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we gather together in watching and waiting, O Lord, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition is spoken, respond by singing:

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the song 'Wait for the Lord'. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with block chords and clear rhythmic patterns.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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We entrust all of these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check the back pages of this bulletin for additional announcements.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.

OFFERING

At this time, we give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit ZionSA.org. Children are invited to come forward during the music and place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel area (near the Sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table with the elements for Holy Communion. Please know that this is the Lord's table, and all are welcome to receive Communion.

OFFERING MUSIC

Pastorale from Concerto Grosso Op. 5 No. 6 by Sammartini

Sonido Barroco
Hector Serna,
Director

Please rise, as you are able.

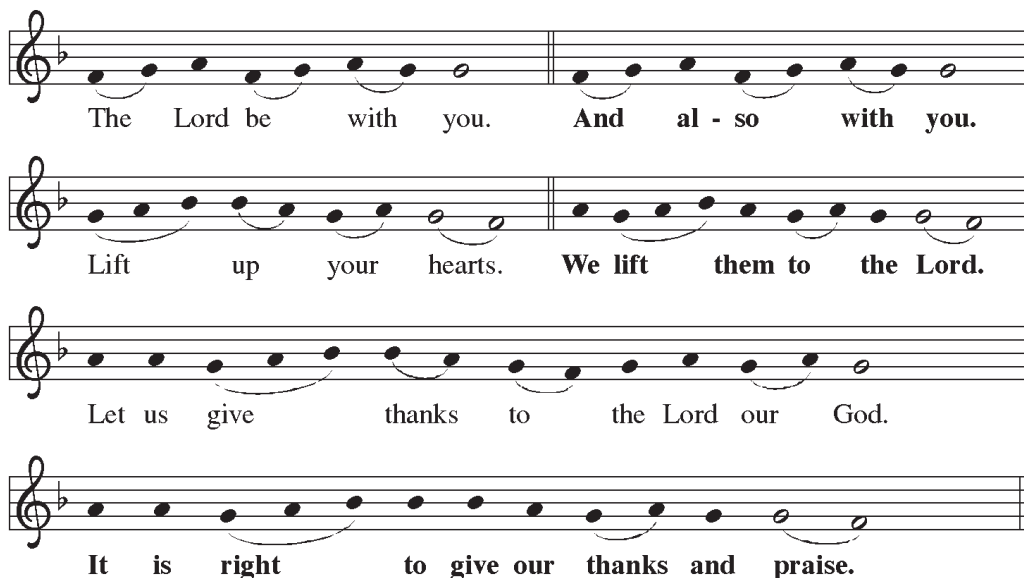
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful,

You bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise."

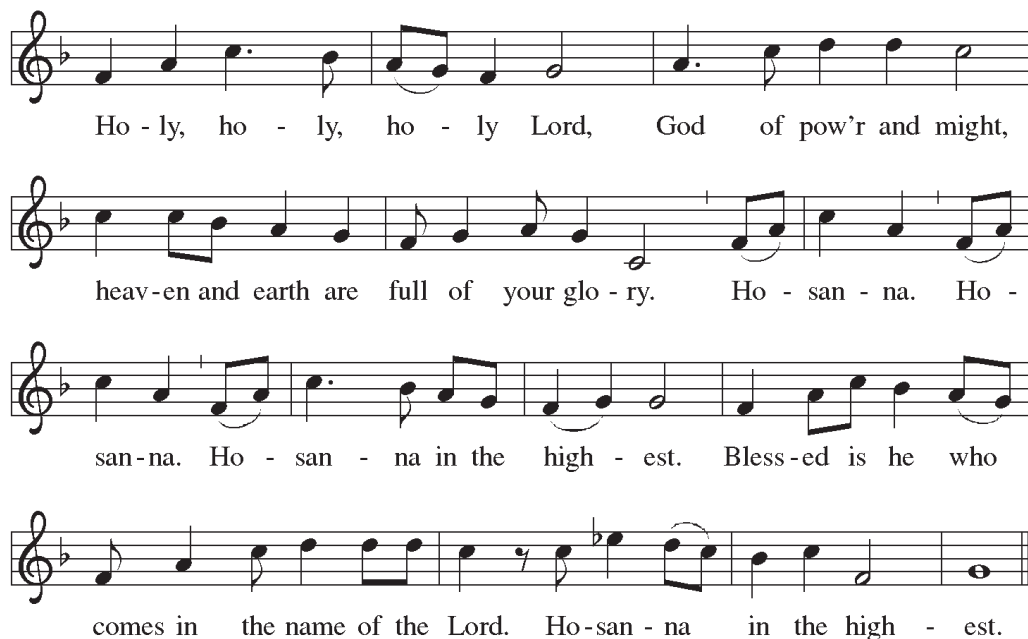
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come ✠ among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

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.

INVITATION

Christ invites you to this table. Come and receive the gifts of God for the people of God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes all to this holy meal! Children who commune should be assisted by adults who are with them. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray for any who are unable to drink wine. After taking Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.

COMMUNION MUSIC

from Messiah

Scene 5 – Christ’s redemptive miracles on earth

Air – Soprano

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen. (Zechariah 9: 9-10)

Recitative – Soprano

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (Isaiah 35: 5-6)

Air – Soprano

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40: 11)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matthew 11: 28-29)

Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. (Matthew 11: 30)
After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.

BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in God’s grace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *on next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Paeon on "Joy to the World" by Lasky

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

**THIS
WEEK
AT
ZION**



*Scan this QR code for
web calendar*

Sunday, December 11

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour	10:15	Details next page
Adult Class: Week Ahead	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Adult Class: Advent Forum	10:15	Ministry Ctr 1
Worship in person & online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Nativity Rehearsal	1:30-3	Family Life Center

Monday, December 12

Zion Zippers Potluck Fellowship	6pm	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, December 13

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Dorcas Circle	10am	Fellowship Hall
Executive Committee	6pm	Zoom
Bell Choir	6:30	Sanc Balcony
Children's Choir	7-7:45	Ministry Ctr 1
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2
Adult Advent Forum	7:30	Zoom

Wednesday, December 14

Bkfst Book Study with Pr Dave (last)	7am	1 st Watch Rest.
High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols' Elem.
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers	9:30	MC 1
Nancy Phillips Funeral	1pm	Sanctuary
Midweek Advent Worship	6:30	Church 1/Chapel
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary
Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101

Thursday, December 15

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Barry McKinney Funeral	2pm	Sanctuary
Book Study with Pr Kathi (last)	7pm	Zoom
Fiesta Flutes Christmas Concert	7pm	Sanctuary

Friday, December 16

Austin Robinson Funeral	11am	Sanctuary
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Calendar continued next page

Worship Support

**ALTAR GUILD AND
BREAD OFFERING**

Randalyn Nickel, Sharon Meade
Karen Umlang, Eileen & Mel Berg
Susan Wright

COMMUNION SERVERS

9:00

Anthony Rios, Pastor Dave Schulte

11:30

Rachael Cannady, Suzi Lockamy

LIVESTREAM

Pastor Kathi Johnson
Steve Johnson

SOUND

Scott Van Doren

DECEMBER USHERS

David Umlang, Brad McClain
Bonnie and Brinkley Harrell
Amy Swanson, Bev Rosel
Dan Graham
Pam Gammage
Brandon Dubuisson
Mike DeHart, Chris Berg

Sunday Faith Formation

CHILDREN

Music Opening in MC 1 at 10:15
Children age three years and older meet in the new Ministry Center Room 1 for opening music with Ms. Sammy, then go to classrooms.

YOUTH CLASSES

Grade 6-7 MC Room 5
Grade 8-9 MC Room 7
Grade 10-12 MC Room 8

ADULT CLASSES TODAY

Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes

Twice each week, Amy McFadden leads an adult forum on the book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia M. Campbell.

- Sunday mornings December 11 and 18 at 10:30am in MC 1
- Tuesday evenings December 13 and 20 at 7:30pm on Zoom. Contact the church office for Zoom link.

Book purchase not required, but is recommended. Scan this QR or use Amazon [amzn.to/3SYE1I7](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B083SYE1I7).



Week Ahead Bible Study

10:15 at with Pastor Dave or Pastor Kathi, in the Fellowship Hall*. Take a look at the lessons we have in worship each week. What's their context? How do we make sense of them as 21st century Christians?
*December 18, meet in FLC.

Calendar, continued

Saturday, December 17

Weight Watchers Mtg	9am	Church 2
Nativity Rehearsal	1:30	FLC
Nativity Presentation	3pm	FLC

Sunday, December 18

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour	10:15	Details next page
Adult Classes same as previous	10:15	FLC and MC 1
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Final Sunday of Sock & Shoe Collection

for Cristo Rey of Hope Community Christmas Store
Zion is collecting shoes and socks for Cristo Rey of Hope, an organization serving residents in Central San Antonio. As you are doing your Christmas shopping, please purchase shoes and socks for children, toddlers through teens, and bring them to the church by Tuesday, December 13 at noon.

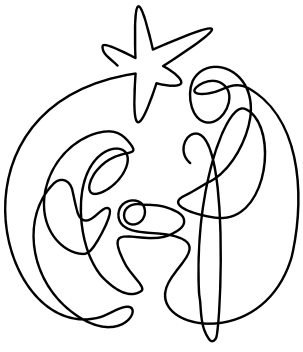


Zion Zippers

Monday, December 12 at 6:00pm

Come and join the Zion Zippers at 6:00pm for a pot-luck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share, along with your own plate and utensils if you can. Invite a friend, too!

After dinner, hang around for entertainment featuring a Christmas sing-along, and a visit with Santa!



Children's Nativity

Next Saturday, December 17
at 3pm in the FLC

Children from Zion's Faith Formation
program and Drama Ministry are
combining to tell and sing the story
of the birth of Jesus.

Midweek Worship in Advent

6:30pm in Church 1

Simple service of Holy Communion, every Wednesday in
Zion's historic chapel. Each week will explore different
themes related to our Advent season: *Breathe, Release,
Receive, Rejoice*

Music Rehearsals

Handbells	Tues 6:30	Balcony
Children (Gr 2-5)	Tues 7-7:45	MC Rm 1
Youth (Gr 6-12)	Tues 7-8pm	Music Apse
Chancel (Adult)	Wed 7:15	Sanctuary

Let's Read the Bible in a Year!

In 2023, we will be reading the Bible cover to cover,
chronologically, for a whole year! This plan is for every
one of you- read it at the dinner table with your family,
or during your lunch break. Listen on your commute, or
while folding laundry. There is so much opportunity for
God's Word to be a part of our daily lives, and we get to
start on January 1! The best part is that you don't have to
do this alone. Every other week, starting January 5, there
will be fellowship and discussion on what has been read,
led by Paul and Cheyenne Omans.

For more information, contact the church office. For
the Bible reading plan, scan this QR code or
go to <http://www.thebiblerecap.com/start>



*Your
generosity
empowers
Zion's
ministry.*

From Sunday morning wor-
ship to feeding families for the
holidays, collecting clothing for
local charity or relief supplies
shipped hundreds of miles, to
friendships fostered worldwide
with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your
time, lend your skills, and sup-
port your ministry financially,
Zion's impact reaches far be-
yond the four walls of our sanc-
tuary. On behalf of everyone
we're able to help, thank you for
your contribution.

For more ways to
support Zion's mis-
sion, scan this QR
code.



CONTACT



zionsa.org



zionsa



@zionsatx



zion@zionsa.org



210-688-3090



9944 Leslie Road, 78254



8:30am-5:00pm
Friday close at 3:00pm

STAFF DAYS OFF

Pastor Dave - Friday
dschulte@zionsa.org

Pastor Kathi - Monday
kjohnson@zionsa.org

Pastor Dan - Monday
dheim@zionsa.org

Rob Mikulski - Monday
rmikulski@zionsa.org

Sammy Mikulski - Monday
theatre@zionsa.org

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MOPS Chapter at Zion

Wednesday, December 14 in MC Room 1
Zion MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) sup-
ports moms by building community for

growth in faith and as parents. Monthly meetings are in
Zion's Ministry Center from 9:30-noon on the second
Wednesday. They also are in need of adult volunteers to
provide child care those second Wednesdays.

Scan the QR to contact Nicole Stender
(mops@zionsa.org) to register, volunteer or
get more info!



Crafty Bunch

Wednesdays at 9:30

The Crafty Bunch now meets in the Education Build-
ing on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double
doors, behind Churches 1 and 2. The "new" craft room is
the first room on the right.

Bring your own project to work on, or check what's in
the cabinets.



Men's Fellowship

Monday, December 19 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Sea Island (11715 Bandera)
for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR
ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at
lmm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

Advent Community Prayer Net

Swing by the Ministry Center, respond to a prayer prompt
and add a blue Advent ribbon to the net. This project will
run through the Sundays in Advent. The net started at an
intergenerational All Saints Sunday event with white rib-
bons commemorating Saints in our lives. Observe Advent
and help beautify the new Ministry Center!

Game Group

December 19 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in Family Life Center Room 101 on the first and third Mondays.

Dinner Out at Fish City Grill Restaurant

Thursday, January 5 at 6:30pm

Dinner Out meets on the first Thursday of each month. All adults are welcome. On January 5, meet at Fish City Grill, on Loop 1604 at Vance Jackson in the South Rim. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by January 2 to Sandy or Jim Chillstrom.

Call the church office for contact information.

Recycling Aluminum Cans*

Zion has a collection barrel for your empty, dry aluminum cans, without any food or beverage residue. Drop them off into the swing-top barrel in the south (cemetery side) parking lot, next to the shed. Your deposits will benefit Zion's Youth program.

**To discourage vermin, please make sure cans do not have food residue.*



Weekday Construction on Leslie Road

The City of San Antonio is working on Leslie Road between Braun and 1604 on weekdays. Traffic may be reduced to one lane. Please be mindful of directions given by the construction crew and be prepared for delays. Traffic on Saturdays and Sundays won't be affected.



Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church

Are You Going through a Difficult Time?

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who have been trained in providing emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The care you'll receive is confidential, free, and very helpful. The duration of the caring relationship depends on circumstances; an hour a week for a few weeks or a few months.

To learn how you – or a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative – can receive care, talk to LeShea Clabough via the church office, 210-688-3090.

DECEMBER 11, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



God is active in the world, filling us with joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Isaiah 35:1-10	The return to Zion
Tuesday	James 5:7-10	Patience in suffering
Wednesday	3 John 1:1-8	Gaius commended for his hospitality
Thursday	Nehemiah 8:9-12	Ezra reads God's law
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalms 146:5-10	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For the waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, your work of love and mercy never ends. Help us to live with joy in our hearts through Christ Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this gift of food and for all your goodness that never ends, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus to us and to all the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with joy each and every day.



DECEMBER 11, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World



taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you really hope for?
- Where or through whom have you seen God's will active in the world?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 146:5-10.

Advent is a season of hope and anticipation that may seem beyond what is real. What makes Advent real and not just a pipe dream is that we have a God who is active in the world. God has always been this way and always will be this way. This is the God of Jacob for whom God made an entire nation, Israel. This is the God who created all that is and continues to create. This is the God who gives sight to the blind, who lifts up those bowed down, and who watches over the stranger, the orphan, and the widow for all generations—past, present, and future. This is the God who is with us now through Jesus, the one who gives sight to the blind, heals the lame and the deaf, raises the dead, and brings good news to the poor (Matthew 11:5). This is the God who continues to make new things happen every day. The followers of Jesus are those who witness God's activity and give witness to what they see and hear, the witness that even death is not a defeat because we have the God who reigns forever.

Discuss: How have you witnessed God's amazing goodness, protection, and love?

Pray: **Almighty God, your greatness exceeds all we can imagine. Help us to trust in your goodness and mercy that renews us and the earth each day through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others find joy and live each day with hope in God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ. For this third week of Advent, light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, and the third candle of joy on the Advent wreath (Some use a rose-colored candle for the third Sunday as it is the symbolic color for joy). This week, we focus on the joy that God brings into our lives through Jesus.

Say: **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, and joy.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org