

December 18, 2022 • Fourth 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

9:00 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Hayes

11:30 *Rejoice, the Lord is King* arr. Bill Ingram

Handbells

Please rise, as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 teach us your will and guide our way.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Presiding Minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the candles are lit, we pray:

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.

As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles,
and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

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 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

PSALM 80

Refrain

Michel Guimont

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your
face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. R.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. R.

May your hand be on the one you have
chosen,
the one you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your
name. R.

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Psalm Verses © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.
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SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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: MATTHEW 1:18-25

Spark Children's Bible Page 196
The Angels Visit

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Heim

Please rise, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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APOSTLES' 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 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.

**catholic: universal*

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:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

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

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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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

9:00	<i>Veni Emmanuel</i> by Liebergen	Youth Choir
11:30	<i>People, Look East</i> arr Linda Lamb	Handbells

Please rise, as you are able.

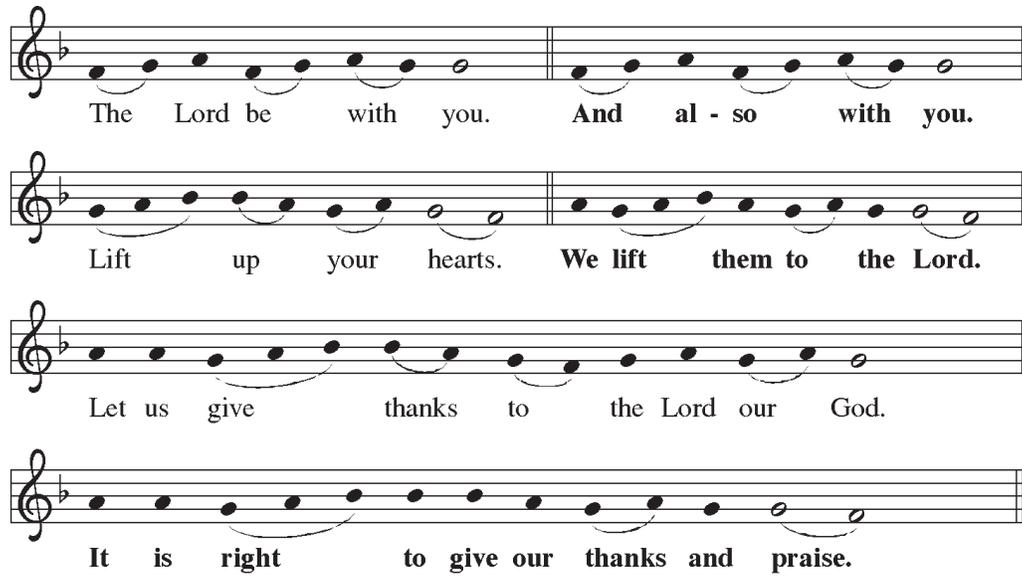
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

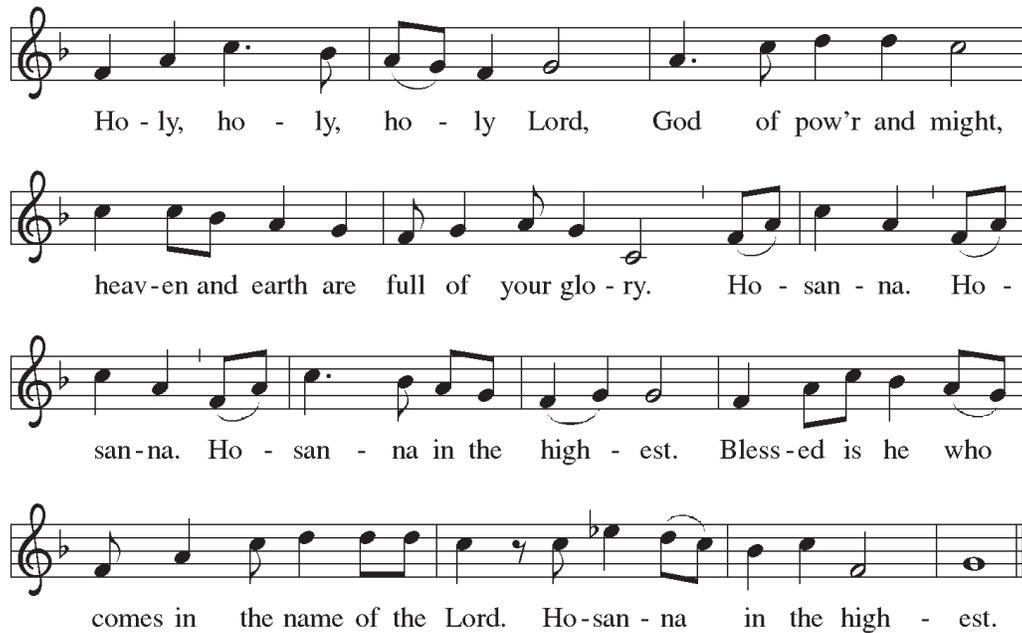
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The 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

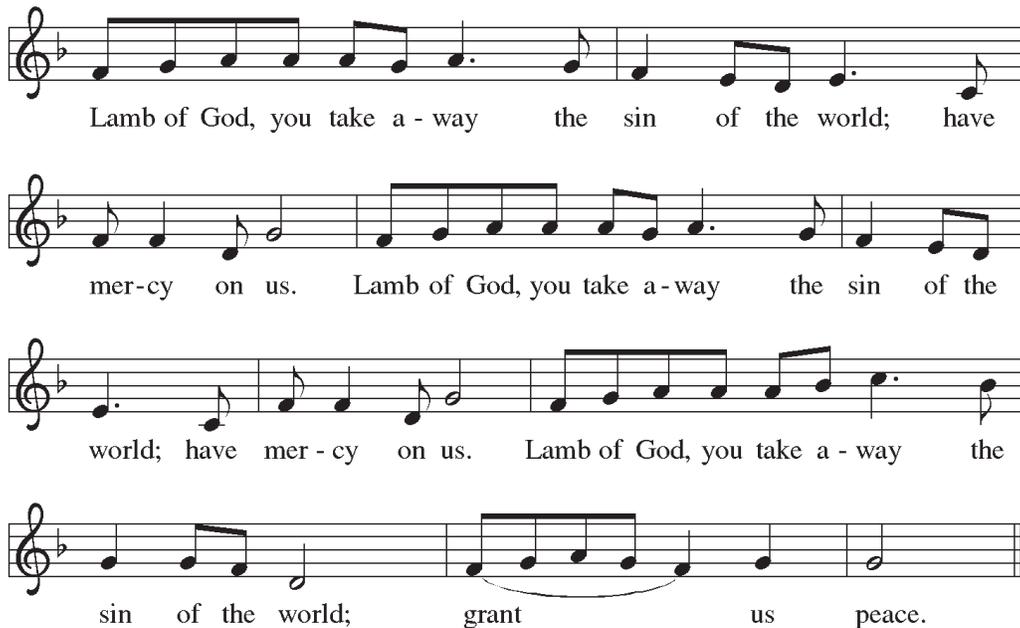
Christ invites you to this table. Come and receive the gifts of God for the people of God.

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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

Prepare, Ye the Way of the Lord by Rodriguez

Youth Choir

11:30

It Is Well with My Soul arr. Bill Ingram

Handbells

COMMUNION HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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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

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland setting by Siefert

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

People Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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Worship Support

ALTAR GUILD AND BREAD OFFERING

Bonnie Bahr, Betsy Howard
Ruth Medbury, Mona McQuien
Karen Sturdivant

LAY READERS

9:00

Carolyn Pfeiffer

11:30

Jeff Williams

CANTOR

Ethan Chapa-Einkaut

COMMUNION SERVERS

9:00

Linda Hoffman

Pastor Kathi Johnson

11:30

Pastor Kathi Johnson

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

THIS WEEK AT ZION



Scan this QR code for
web calendar

Sunday, December 18

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 and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Monday, December 19

Game Group	1pm	FLC 101
LMM Fellowship & Dinner	6:30	Sea Island Rest.

Tuesday, December 20

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Council Dinner	6:30	
Bell Choir	6:30	Sanc Balcony
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2
Adult Advent Forum	7:30	Zoom

Wednesday, December 21

Crafty Bunch	9:30	Harrell's Home
Midweek Worship	6:30	Church 1/Chapel
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary
Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101

Thursday, December 22

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Stephen Ministry	7pm	FLC 101

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship with	3:00	Sanctuary
Holy Communion, Carols and	5:00	Sanc. & YouTube
Candlelight	7:00	Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

Worship in person	10am	Sanctuary
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Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Music Rehearsals This Week

Handbells	Tues 6:30	Balcony
Youth (Gr 6-12)	Tues 7-8pm	Music Apse
Chancel (Adult)	Wed 7:15	Sanctuary

Midweek Worship

6:30pm in Church 1

Simple service of Holy Communion, every Wednesday in Zion's historic chapel.

Christmas Eve Worship

3:00, 5:00 and 7:00pm with carols, communion and candlelight.

Advent Community Prayer Net

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

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>



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.

*Your
generosity
empowers
Zion's
ministry.*

From Sunday morning worship 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 support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.



Game Group

December 19 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in Family Life Center Room 101.



Men's

Fellowship

Tomorrow,
December 19 at
6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Sea Island (11715 Bandera) for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and a farewell tribute to Pastor Dave Schulte! Contact David Umlang at imm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

Youth and Family Ministry Events

Dec 25
Jan 1

No Sunday Classes - Christmas Break

Jan 8

Intergenerational Epiphany Event at 10:15am in the Ministry Center

Jan 29

Camp Hope Informational Meeting at 10:15am in the Sanctuary

Retirement Celebration for Pastor Dave Schulte

Saturday, January 14 at 5pm in the FLC

Please RSVP by phone to the church office by January 6.
Call 210-688-3090.

Slide Show Presentation

for Pastor Dave's Retirement Celebration

Please share any photos you may have of Pastor Dave through his tenure at Zion. Send pictures to Anna Schulte at annajschulte@gmail.com by December 31.

Gifts for Pastors

For those wishing to give monetary thank-you gifts to the pastors and staff, a basket is available at each entrance door. For those wishing to donate online, access Zion's portal via the QR code and select the "Events, Fundraisers, Special Offerings" tab.



Auditions for Sound of Music

Saturday, January 7 and Sunday, January 8 in the Family Life Center. Begins at 2:00pm. Contact Sammy Mikulski if you have questions in the meantime. Performances are April 21-23 and 28-30.

Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church

The excitement of the Advent season and the joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Contact LeShea Clabough via the church office, 210-688-3090.

Weekday Construction on Leslie Road

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

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.



CONTACT



zionsa.org



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[@zionsatx](https://www.instagram.com/zionsatx)



zion@zionsa.org



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

STAFF DAYS OFF

Pastor Dave - Friday
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Pastor Kathi - Monday
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DECEMBER 18, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Who is this Jesus born of God's love?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-16	A son named Immanuel
Tuesday	Romans 1:1-7	A salutation
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-7	A child is born
Thursday	1 John 4:7-12	God is love
Friday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Israel's restoration
Saturday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Sunday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, we praise you for reaching out to us and all the world with your eternal love through your Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us each day with the gift of food. Strengthen us with this meal to love others as you love us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of the world bless you with God's steadfast love.



DECEMBER 18, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Away in a Manger



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:

- When you think of a special friend or relative, how do you describe that person to others?
- When you think of Jesus, how do you describe him?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 1:18-25.

Since it speaks of Jesus' birth, this is almost an odd text for the last Sunday in Advent. It could be a Christmas Eve or Day writing, except that the focus is less on Jesus' birth and more on his identity: Who is this Jesus? He is divine (conceived by the Holy Spirit) yet also of the lineage of David (son of David, a title for the royal messiah). His role is seen in his name Jesus, meaning, "to save." His entrance into history is the fulfillment of scripture. Jesus' birth is prophetically linked to Isaiah 7 by the name Emmanuel, God with us. This essential point is brought back at the end of the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus says, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). It is worth reflecting on the coming of Jesus as the Son of God who comes to save and to fulfill the scriptures. This Jesus is not just a historical figure of the past but the very presence of God who is with us today. Jesus is present in the midst of our personal and community needs for salvation from sin, death, and the presence of real evil.

Discuss: What part of Jesus' identity do you focus on or relate to during the Advent season?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to sense the awe of Jesus' birth through whom you have come to be with us as our Savior and promise to be with us always. 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 experience God's love and mercy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ. For the fourth and last week of Advent, light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, the third candle of joy, and the fourth candle of love on the Advent wreath. This week, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another.

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



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