

St. John
Lutheran Church

destination

Joy



Sunday, December 12, 2021

8:30am

Rest Stops on the Way



Advent 3 Edition: Worship & Events taking place at



St. John

DEC 12 **This Sunday** *The Gift of Time with your Plus 1*
3pm - 5pm Relax. Shop. Rest. St. John's Youth Service Team welcomes 4 - 10-year-olds for a few hours of activities and crafts while you get a break. Sign up at stjohnjoliet.org.

This Sunday *Light Up the Night* 
6:15pm Parking lot opens: Hot cocoa, cookies
7pm Program and lighting

Join us in the parking lot as we find light in the darkness. We're lighting up St. John and the tree. Can't make it? Livestream begins at 7pm on Facebook only.

DEC 16 *Advent Evening Prayer*  
Find quiet in the sanctuary and ready your heart for Christmas. Thursdays in December at 7pm. Livestream begins at 6:55pm.

DEC 19 *Longest Night Service** 7pm  
In our Sanctuary, pastors offer you healing words of comfort when "the most wonderful time of the year" isn't quite so wonderful. 6:55pm Livestream.* *Only pastors will be seen on camera.*

DEC 24 *Christmas Eve Worship* 3pm, 5pm, 11pm
Worship with candle lighting and singing *Silent Night* at all services. We are looking forward to welcoming the Christ child with you in the Sanctuary and online. All services Livestream on YouTube and FaceBook.  

DEC 25 *Merry Christmas!* **DEC 26** *10am worship with Livestream*  
25 *Building Closed*

DEC We are halfway through giving away 600 holiday dinner kits to our hungry neighbors. If you'd like to donate, each one is \$18 and includes turkey or ham, fresh potatoes, sides, & a dessert. Visit stjohnfood.org to donate.

We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church as we gather for this time of worship and reflection on God's love for the world.

The altar flowers today are given by the Perignon & Larisey families in congratulations for our parents, Barb & Lee Perignon's 50th wedding anniversary on December 10th! To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.

Additional seating is available in the Trinity Room.

Worship Leaders – Sunday 8:30 am

Deacon	Glenn Smith
Communion Assistant	Pam Murray
Greeter	Sam Riggi
Ushers	Joe Aincham, Jill Doyle, Bob Makowka
Organ	Janet Blomquist
Handbell Director	Sarah Wernli
Audio Board	Rob Doyle
Livestream Team	Rob Kornaus, Elliott Liss, Dawn MacGregor
Counters	Pat Block-Hay, Cathy Hawkins
Altar Guild	Carol Robinson, Joan Nunemaker

Contact Information

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 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**

 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”

Hayes, arr. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering**

P We are gathered today in the name of the Father, Son, and † Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

#242, Vs. 1 & 4

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

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Verse 1

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
For angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
Behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
To bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heav'nly door
And lives now inside us forever

Verse 4

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light,
Be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
And Love our endless story:
May God fill ev'ry day we share
And bring us at last into glory.

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Prince of Peace,

C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P We gather together, resisting what threatens hope.
O Prince of Peace,

C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P We stay present by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future,
awakening joy within us.

O Prince of Peace,

C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P Christ, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of our Advent
wreath, whose flame brings warmth to winter, and fills this place with the
glow of hope.

C **Amen!**

*Advent Song

“Advent Processional”

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We will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Til He comes again.

We will wait on Him, wait with hope,
Wait on Him, wait with hope,
Wait on Him, wait with hope,
Til He comes again.

*Prayer of the Day

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.**

P Let us pray. God of hope, your gracious Word rains upon us, refreshing our
spirit. Send us out from here with joy to accomplish your purpose, until all of
creation praises your name.

C **Amen.**

Psalm 146:5-10

D A responsive reading from Psalm 146. Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
**who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
**The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
St. John Handbell Choir

arr. Geschke

Reading

Isaiah 55:1-13

D A reading from the book of Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

D Word of God, Word of Life!
C **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation

#253 Vs. 3

“He Came Down”

Text by: Cameroon Traditional. Music by: arr. John L. Bell. © 1986 Iona Community. Gia Publications, Inc.
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Verse 3 He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore.

*Gospel

John 4:13-14

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the fourth chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

P The gospel of our Lord.
C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Robin Caldwell

*Hymn of the Day

266, Vs. 1, 2, 4

“All Earth is Hopeful”

Text and Music by: Alberto Taule. Spanish Text and Tune © 1993 and tr. © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications.
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Verse 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God’s creative task:
This, the labor of people who struggle to see
How God’s truth and justice set ev’rybody free.

Verse 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;
She conceived him “God with us,” our brother, whose birth
Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Verse 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
In our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
Our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

***Apostles' Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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.

Joys and Concerns of our Faith Community

*Prayer request cards are available in your pews.
You may place the card in the offering plate or give to a pastor.*

Prayers of the Church

Text and Music by: Steven Inverson. © Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

P With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church,
the world, and those in need.

Response (sing):

**Peace, be still. Peace, be still.
The storm rages. Peace, be still.**

The prayers conclude:

P Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your peace,
we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You may share the peace of Christ with others. Those who choose to stay in their pew may wave or give signs of peace. Those who move to greet others may choose their greeting at the discretion of the person you are greeting.

Please be mindful of the non-verbal cue you are receiving, and ask what the person is comfortable with before greeting.

Offertory

“Still, Still, Still” (A Christmas Berceuse)

arr. Martin

Commitment to Community

In this past year, you’ve faithfully tended to the ministry of our church. You encouraged one another when times were difficult, cared for the vulnerable in our community, and walked alongside youth and families during their highs and lows.

You are signs of God’s hope for our world.

Just as you have committed to love this church, this church commits to love as God loves-- with generous hearts full of mercy and hope. The sharing of our resources makes this possible.

Let us give with grateful hearts.

*Offertory Response

836, Vs. 3

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Text by: Henry van Dyke. Music by: Ludwig van Beethoven. Public Domain.
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Verse 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving *(sung)*

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, 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. 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:

*Holy

S 144b



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.

*Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

C 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 to Communion

P God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

C Thanks be to God!

Lamb of God

Music by: Ellen Goodwin © 2008 used by permission.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world.

Lamb of God, have mer - cy, mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way our sins. Grant us peace,

grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Distribution

*We believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in this meal and at this table.
All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.*

There are two ways to receive communion today:

Receiving Communion in your pew

You may receive communion in your pew with the elements contained in the communion pod. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Receiving Communion at the altar

- *You will be invited forward by the usher.*
- *You may bring your offering/attendance slip forward and place in the offering basket or place in the offering plates by the doors as you leave.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.*
- *Wear your masks as you come forward; lift your mask when receiving the elements of bread and then again with the grape juice or the wine.*
- *The deep purple wine is on the outer rings of the tray; the golden grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket, and return to your pew via the side aisle.*

Communion Music

247 Vs. 1, 2, 4

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

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- Verse 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- Verse 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- Verse 4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Curry

*Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

- D Let us pray. Holy God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your joy, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
- C **Amen.**

*Benediction

- C *Sing* **AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

***Sending Hymn**

254, Vs. 1

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Text by: Charles Wesley. Music by: W. Walker. Public Domain.

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Verse 1

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.

***Sending**

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Giga”

Burgess

DECEMBER 24

Destination: Joy



CHRISTMAS

EVE AT

St. John

3PM

5PM

11PM

Livestream begins 15 minutes before each Sanctuary Worship Service



Remember to bring your *unwrapped* gift to St. John this Saturday, 12/11 from 3pm-5pm or Sunday, 12/12 from 8:30am-Noon.



AVAILABLE IN: NARTHEX

giving tree

TAGS

\$10 increments for Target, Shell, Walmart, Speedway, McDonald's & Goodwill work best



Christmas Poinsettias



\$17 per plant - Please bring payment to church office.

Order plants at stjohnjoliet.org

or in the **church office**