

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

We answer Christ's call by:

Worshiping God

Welcoming All

Caring for Human Dignity

Serving in the World

PRELUDE

*Sing With Joy, Glad Voices Raise*

Pat Singer

WELCOME & LIFE IN THE CHURCH

**Zoom Fellowship Time**

- Zoom next week after worship, also on Christmas Day 3pm.

**Christmas Photo Slideshow**

- Send in a Christmas card or family photo to include in the Christmas Eve slideshow.

**Pledges for Stewardship Sunday**

- Our Stewardship drive was celebrated on Sunday, November 22, but since this year is so strange and different than other years, we are still waiting for a number of pledges to come in.

If you haven't submitted your pledge, please do so as soon as you can so we can work on the 2021 budget for Germonds and where we are financially.

You can mail it to the office, you can drop it off at the office, you can call it in and tell our administrator who will record it, or you can email it to her at [Marion.Stefanoff@germondschurch.org](mailto:Marion.Stefanoff@germondschurch.org).

**Project Joy (The Joy Store)**

- In years past Church in Society has helped with the Holiday collection drives for People to People to help families and children in need in Rockland. This year, the need is so much greater, but instead of collection drives, we are asking you to drop off your donations directly at People to People at 121 West Nyack Road, Suite #1 by Dec 11th. **They are asking for gift cards this year, but if you don't have time for that, you can donate directly through this link:**

<https://peopletopeopleinc.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/ProjectJoy2020/DonateHere/tabid/1198272/Default.aspx>

Thank you for your generosity!!

### **Prepare A Meal for Those in Need**

- CIS has teamed up with Ramapo Community Chefs and is inviting anyone who is able to help prepare a meal for pickup that will be distributed to families who are experiencing food insecurity. You prepare a meal for 4-6 people, it gets picked up, and you have done something to help a family who needs it. Contact Kathy Lathrop [lathropkathleen@gmail.com](mailto:lathropkathleen@gmail.com) if you are interested. Also, include Betsy Bostwick ([betzb@optonline.net](mailto:betzb@optonline.net)) and Sue Ternquist ([sternquist@gmail.com](mailto:sternquist@gmail.com)) on your email.

CHORAL INTROIT

*Soon and Very Soon*

Germonds Choir

### CALL TO WORSHIP

The Advent story  
of hope and mystery,  
anticipation,  
preparation,  
a kingdom  
of this world and the next,  
and a king  
appearing when and where we least expect.  
Heaven touching earth,  
the footsteps of the divine  
walking dusty roads  
as once they did in Eden,  
and a people,

searching for a Saviour,  
and walking past  
the stable.

Open eyes and hearts,  
that this might be  
an Advent of hope to the world.

Let us gather in spirit this morning to worship the living God.

#### OPENING PRAYER

In this season of expectation  
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah  
Into the bustle of our lives  
and the hard to find moments of solitude  
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah  
Into our homes and situations  
along with friends and families  
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah  
Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives  
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah  
For beneath the surface of your story  
is an inescapable fact  
You entered this world  
as vulnerable as any one of us  
in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.  
Our fears, our insecurities and our sins  
all that can separate us from God  
exchanged by your Grace for Love.  
We cannot comprehend the reasoning  
only marvel that Salvation comes to us  
through a baby born in a stable,  
and reaches out to a world in need.

In this season of anticipation  
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Redling family

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Thank you, God, for thick, warm socks on crisp winter days.

Thank you for the smell of evergreen,  
for the taste of a sweet clementine,  
for packages delivered in trucks,  
and colourful lights dancing in the dark.

Thank you for the poignant pleasures  
of unpacking Christmas ornaments,  
and looking at photos from years gone by.

We are hanging on to thankfulness so tight this year,  
because there are too many griefs that keep us up at night.

Will you be with us through this season of waiting?

Keep us safe as we wait for a vaccine,  
and give godspeed to those who are rolling it out.

Bring comfort to all the homes who will celebrate Christmas  
in a bittersweet way because there are too many empty chairs.

This season is particularly hard for those families touched by death.

We wonder about this world of yours,  
and this cycle of life and loss...sometimes it is too hard.

Be near to those who struggle with depression and anxiety,  
because loneliness is more lonely at Christmas  
and grief is more grievous.

We want this Christmas to be memorably generous.

As we open our wallets to support food banks and shelters,  
as we call or write relatives we haven't seen in ages,  
as we drop off soup or cookies for neighbours and friends,  
we are so thankful that we have the means to give.

Even if our smiles are masked, we can give a kind word in the grocery line.

This advent, help us to let go of old grudges that clog up our lives.

Yes, people have been mean, and they've hurt our hearts at times.

Give us a glimpse of what it would look like to loosen our fingers  
from the pain we clutch so tightly. Can you bring healing even here?

We want to experience new birth this Christmas,

your presence newborn in us.  
Immanuel, God with us.  
We are waiting.  
Amen.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Go To The World*

Germonds Choir

POSTLUDE

*Away In A Manger*

Pat Singer