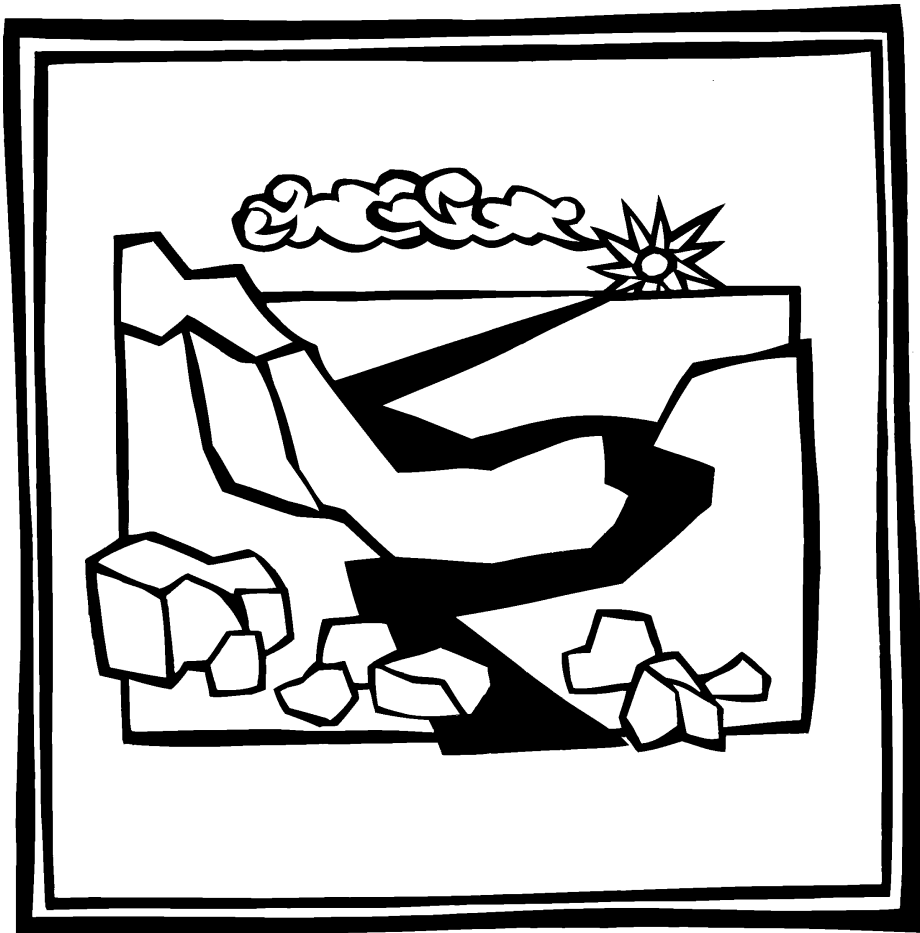


Second Sunday of Advent



Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ

Dec 5, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

20300 Hilliard Boulevard
Rocky River, OH 44116
440-331-1773



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YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/GoodSoilLutheranMinistries)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal! All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us, **masks are required in the building**. Masking of young children is up to the discretion of parents. Council continues to monitor the situation.*

Second Sunday of Advent

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell and Silent Reflection

Welcome to Worship

Children's Sermon & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Candle Lighting Hymn: Light One Candle to Watch for
Messiah ELW 240 vs 1 & 2**

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The presiding minister greets the assembly with the words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† 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.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Word

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

To put this reading into context:

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

Hear now a reading from the book of Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel reading is announced by the pastor. We rise to our feet, if able, as a sign of respect for the Gospel that reveals Jesus Christ to us. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

To put this reading into context:

John the Baptizer is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

	<p>“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”</p> <p>The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.</p>
	<p><i>Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service at this time and attend the first part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)</i></p>
	<p>Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison</p> <p><i>Silence for reflection.</i></p>
	<p>† Hymn of the Day: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254</p> <p>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.</p>

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

*As the church, we
pray for those in
our community and
around the world.
The prayers are also
responsive,
emphasizing our
own participation.*

† Prayers of the Church

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.


A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Empower your people to boldly witness to your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to work on behalf of those who are hurting; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; those who are grieving, and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use us to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially...*) and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

	<p>Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.</p> <p>We remember and celebrate the saints who have touched our lives, especially Steve. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith in communion with them until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.</p> <p>God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.</p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support. This QR code will take you directly to Good Soil's online giving page.</p> 
	<p>"Faith at Work" Interview with Alex Verdova</p>

	<p>† Offering Prayer</p> <p>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 Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.</p>
	<p>† Great Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>
	<p>† Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.</p> <p>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.</p>

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. Receive the elements and then return to your seat before partaking of them.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn: Comfort, Comfort Now My People ELW 256

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.
- 2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.

	<p>3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.</p> <p>Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.</p>
	<p>† Post-Communion Table Blessing</p> <p>May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.</p>
	<p>† Remembrance and Commendation of Stephen Broocker</p> <p>† Memorial Hymn: Amazing Grace ELW 779 v 1</p> <p>1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.</p> <p>Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5</p>
<p><i>With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Sending</u></p> <p>† Blessing</p> <p>The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. Amen.</p>

<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound ELW 239 vs 1, 3 & 4</p> <p>1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.</p> <p>3 He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.</p> <p>4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.</p> <p>Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751</p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out into the world as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i></p>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

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Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Dec 5, 2021

For those in need of healing, comfort or strength: Linda Beebe, Diane Bennett, Dave Blocksom, Gary Dennison, Evatt Family, Marilyn Hocevar, Barry Hollowell, Char Mattson, Joyce Miller, Mitterholzer family, Ann Norman, Jerry and Marie Sternad, Tony Sykaluk, Gloria Syverson, Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating birthdays: Jim Mattson (Dec 1), Joe Lanter (Dec 3), Sean Lanter (Dec 3), Aaron Krankowski (Dec 8)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Stan Zeager (Dec 11)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by the family in honor of their loving parents, Ed and Verna Fink, on the occasion of their 71st wedding anniversary.

Don't forget about Budget Q&A Zoom taking place today at noon. This is an opportunity to ask questions about the budget items prior to the congregational meeting being held next Sunday, Dec 12 immediately following worship. Here's the Zoom info:

Time: Dec 5, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time

Meeting ID: 815 6914 9242

Passcode: 391818

Use this link to join electronically:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81569149242?pwd=TTdKYlBpOEpkNUNVWkn3bjBPQTJHdz09>

To join by phone, dial this number and follow the instructions: 1 (929) 205 6099

The Little Library purchased with some of the Open Door Grant money received by Good Soil and donated books that aid in faith formation will be blessed on Dec 19. If you have books that have touched you in your faith journey that you'd like to donate, please bring them in to the church office on Sunday or during the week. Books can be left outside the church office door. If you come outside office hours, leave your books in the mailbox outside the parking lot doors with a note that they are a donation for the Little Library.

Trials for Hope is in need of the following items for their new community "Hope Box" on Bridge Ave. Please place items in the bin outside the front doors of Good Soil and Bill Fink will deliver the items to Trials for Hope. Thanks for your support of those in need in our community!

Emergency Blankets

Socks

Toiletries

Handwipes

Hand and foot warmers

Gloves

Tampons/pads

Books

Questions? Contact Bill Fink at bfink06@yahoo.com or Trials for Hope directly at trialsforhopecle@gmail.com or 216-920-2205

We would like to update the Good Soil Directory soon. If you've had any changes to your personal info (address, phone, email address, etc.) please let the office know as soon as possible.

The Livestream Team is seeking feedback through Thursday, Dec 23rd. How can we continue to craft our online worship experience so that it is meaningful, user-friendly, and creates an intentional space for connecting with Christ and this faith community? Find the feedback form link in the November "Seeds" Newsletter, email us at GoodSoilAV@gmail.com or use the QR code to submit your feedback now!





Last Month for 1:1 Matching Campaign for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries' Breaking New Ground initiative: Good Soil established an Endowment Fund, and the Council voted to designate \$10,000 as an initial contribution. Good Soil now has the opportunity to expand its impact. The Endowment Fund will

match individual contributions dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 from now through the end of 2021. This means members and friends of Good Soil can pool our collective resources to contribute as much as \$30,000 to Breaking New Ground! Use the QR code to learn more.

Year-End Giving to Good Soil For those considering an extra year-end gift to Good Soil, we want to let you know our plans for what we will do if revenue ends up exceeding expenses this year. With excess funding, we will:

- 1) Set aside funds for the expansion of our Open Doors creative outreach initiative with the front lawn
- 2) Get an earlier start on some of our Phase 2 dreams for our livestream upgrade (updated Bluetooth projector, enhanced lighting, increased sound options, etc.)

Additionally, there is a special tax advantage this year to encourage giving to charitable organizations. The CARES Act will allow those who do not itemize on their taxes to take an “above-the-line” deduction up to \$300 (single) or \$600 (filing jointly) for gifts made to charitable organizations like Good Soil. The deduction is only for gifts of cash made in calendar year 2021.

Many of you have already given more than \$300 and for that we are immensely grateful. Every gift and every giver strengthens our ministries to nurture faith, care for our community, and share God’s Good News throughout the world. Thank you for your giving!

Calendar of Upcoming Events		
Day	Event	Time
Sun, Dec 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-Person and Livestream Worship ● Sunday School ● Budget Q and A Session via zoom ● Confirmation Class 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.
Sun, Dec 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-Person and Livestream Worship ● Congregation Meeting ● Sunday School ● Confirmation Class 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Tues, Dec 14	Good Soil Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Sun, Dec 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-Person and Livestream Worship ● Children’s Christmas Pageant During the Service (no Sunday School) ● Fellowship after Worship 	9:30 a.m.
Tues, Dec 21	The Longest Night Service (in-person and livestreamed)	7:00 p.m.
Fri, Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE Worship (in-person and livestreamed)	7:00 p.m.
Sun, Dec 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lessons and Carols Worship (in-person and livestreamed) ● NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	9:30 a.m.
Sun, Jan 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-Person and Livestream Worship ● NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	9:30 a.m.

The Rocky River Community Choir and Band invites you to a free Christmas Concert on Dec 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.