

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ



Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec 18, 2022
9:30 a.m.



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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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.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "prayerground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

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.

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 those who are vulnerable, **masking is strongly recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

Third Sunday of Advent

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew’s account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. Joseph courageously answers the call to adopt the divinely-begotten child and names him Jesus, which means “God Saves.” On this final Sunday of Advent, we prepare for the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death, and we celebrate Christ’s coming birth with the children’s Christmas pageant!

Prelude

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell and Silent Reflection

† Call to Worship

One: We are courageous

All: When we are vulnerable.

One: We are courageous

All: When we are honest with ourselves.

One: We are courageous

All: When we extend words of welcome.

One: We are courageous

All: When we invite others to sit with us.

One: We are courageous

All: When we proclaim the love of God to a broken world.

One: We are courageous

All: When we say that love cannot wait.

One: So let us be courageous—

All: Let us worship Holy God.

Gathering Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW 631

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,

till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

The assembly is greeted with 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.**

Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy." Chanting is an ancient practice of the church.

† 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.

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

† Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 7:13-16

To put this reading into context:

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

Hear now the reading:

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.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† **Gospel Acclamation: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**
ELW 254 v 1

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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

The Gospel is announced. Following the reading of the Gospel, we

† **Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**

To put this reading into context:

<p><i>give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.</i></p>	<p><i>Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."</i></p> <p>The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.</p> <p>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:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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.</p> <p>The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.</p>
	<p>Children's Sermon & Lighting of the Advent Wreath</p>
	<p>Advent Wreath Hymn: Wait for the Lord ELW 262</p> <p>Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!</p> <p><small>Text: Taizé Community, Text © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.</small></p>

Good Soil Kids Christmas Pageant

*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 Intercession

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Help us to serve and love in your name, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**


God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. Shelter those who are fleeing war and famine. Strengthen the work of organizations that promote peace and human rights. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those in need especially Peter, Helen, Max, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Daryl, Mary, Scott, Jamie, Mark, Willie, Char, Jen, Rich, Marie, Jeanette . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest with you, and bring us also into your reign of peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers. **Amen.**

<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>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></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> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></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 or by using this QR code:</p> <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i></p> 
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257 v 6</p> <p>6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.</p> <p>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.</p> <p><small>Text: <i>Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum</i>, Köln, 1710; tr. composite</small></p>

† Offering Prayer

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
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.

† Sanctus

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
... 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.

† Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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 to the Table

Be strong, take heart!
 Do not fear, here is your God.

† 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. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came ELW 265

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

	<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><i>With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.</i></p>	<p>† Blessing</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: Canticle of the Turning ELW 723</p> <p>1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?</p> <p><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.</p> <p>2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight,</p>

for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
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*The dismissal
sends us out as
Christ's Body—
fed, nourished,
and ready to
serve. Worship
has ended, and
our service
begins!*

† **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

You are warmly invited to gather in the kitchen/lounge area down the hall from the sanctuary for coffee hour immediately following worship.

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Call to Worship adapted from Candle Lighting Liturgy by Sarah Are. © A Sanctified Art LLC sanctifiedart.org.

Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Joan Zeager
Ushers: Bill and Darlene Wahl	Counters: Barbara Munch and Kim Wylie
Online Usher: Alex Alusheff	Acolyte: Isaac Krankowski



**Announcements from Good Soil
Sunday, Dec 18, 2022**

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander; Helen Andrews; Max Bechtel; Jae, Jeff, and Oakley; Andrew Evatt; Ed Fink; Daryl and Mary Hanson, Jamie Lanter; Scott Krankowski, Mark Liston; Willie Lee, Char Mattson; Jen Mitterholzer; Rich Petrusky; Marie Sternad; Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating birthdays:

Vern Mattson (Dec, 19), Lucy Alusheff (Dec 21), Jean Groscost (Dec 22)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism:

Vern Mattson (Dec 19)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by Karen Sperli to celebrate the birthday of Jennie Rose Stern.

Thanks go out to the kids of the congregation, Pam Lanter, JoAnne Wancata, Julia Alexander and all others involved who put in the work on the lovely Children's Christmas Pageant this year! The cast:

Angel 1 – Alexandra Inman

Angel 2 – Luke Williamson

Joseph – TJ Lanter

Mary – Edith Young

More Angels – Brynn Carlson

Sammie Forshey

Jack Smith

Scarlett Smith

Vivienne Smith

Narrator 1 – Aaron Krankowski

Narrator 2 – Sean Lanter

Shepherds – Lily Connor

George Young

Stagehands – Amelia Forshey

Isaac Krankowski

Wisemen – Edward Inman

Evan Lanter

Ryan Williamson

The flower chart for next year has been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Lounge. The cost of the arrangements is \$20 per vase unless special colors or flowers are requested. When signing up, please specify whether you would like 1 or 2

arrangements and indicate any dedication. You are welcome to take your flowers home after worship.

The offering envelopes for 2023 have arrived and are on the table in the Lounge ready for pickup. If you have been giving online, no envelopes were ordered for you but your offerings will be attributed to your envelope number during the counting process. Thank you for your faithful support of God's ministry through Good Soil!

"Seeds" is a weekly e-newsletter with updates and highlights about God's action among us! Use this QR code to sign up. You can also call the church office at 440-331-1773 for help signing up. It's a great way to stay in touch with all the exciting happenings at Good Soil!



Calendar of Events

Sun, Dec 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship –Kid’s Christmas Pageant • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Sun, Dec 18	Advent Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Wed, Dec 21	Longest Night Worship * In-Person and Livestream	6:30 p.m.
Sat, Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE In-Person and Livestream Worship	6:30 p.m.
Sun, Dec 25	CHRISTMAS DAY – PAJAMAS AND PRAISE <i>***Everyone is invited to come to worship in their pajamas and bring some cookies to share***</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Coffee Hour and “Cookie Potluck” 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Sun, Jan 1	NEW YEAR’S DAY – Jesus’ Name Day! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship 	9:30 a.m.

*** The Longest Night Service:**

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels like celebrating. Grief, illness, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Many also feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night service provides a time of solace where we can come together seeking healing and a safe place to feel grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions can feel out of place during the holidays. This worship service features candlelight, scriptures, prayers, and a few soft hymns.

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Presents:

All services are in-person and livestreamed on Facebook:

Christmas Pageant 12/18 9:30am

Longest Night Service* 12/21 6:30pm

Christmas Eve 12/24 6:30pm

Christmas Day 12/25 (worship in pajamas!) 9:30am

New Year's Day 1/1/2023 9:30am

The Longest Night is a quiet, meditative service with candlelight for those who are experiencing grief around the holidays or simply need a quiet place to rest and renew spiritually.



www.goodsoillutheran.org

20300 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, 440-331-1773

ALL ARE WELCOME.