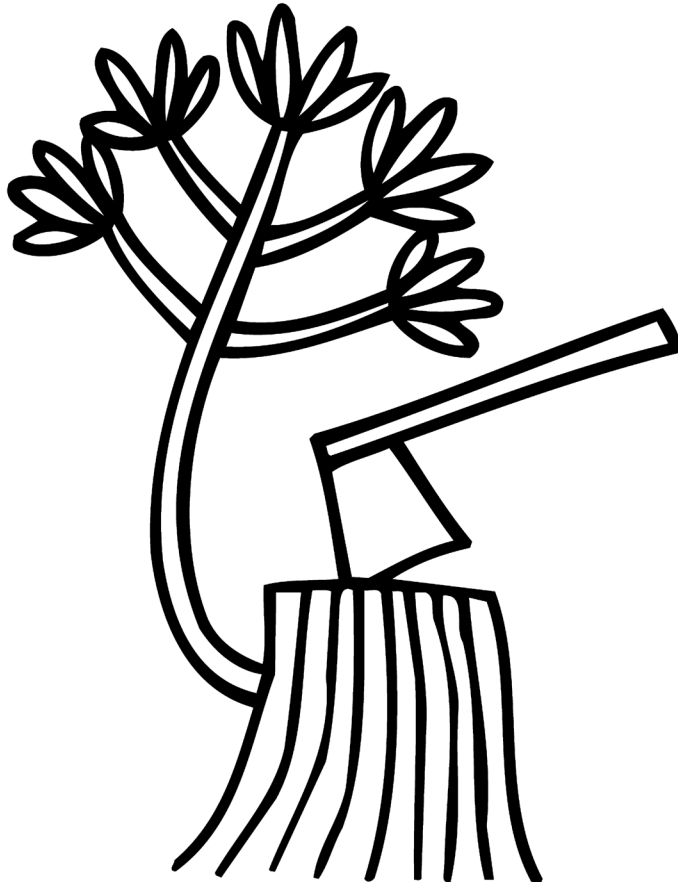


Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ



Second Sunday of Advent

Dec 4, 2022

9:30 a.m.



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

The Rev. Marissa Harrison
pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org
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Worship & Music Coordinator Julia Alexander
julia.alexander@oberlin.edu

Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org
Facebook: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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 "prayground" 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).*

Second Sunday of Advent

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord’s table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Prelude

Welcome

Ring of the Bell and Silent Reflection

† Call to Worship

One: Prepare the way!

All: Deck the halls and light the candles.

One: Prepare the way!

All: Open the doors and sing a song of hope.

One: Prepare the way!

All: Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.

One: Christ is coming.

All: Prepare the way!

Gathering Hymn: Hark, the Glad Sound!
ELW 239 vs 1, 3, & 4

- 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.

- 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.

- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

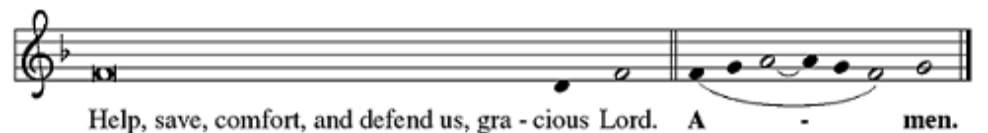
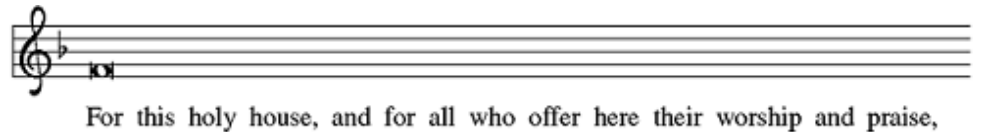
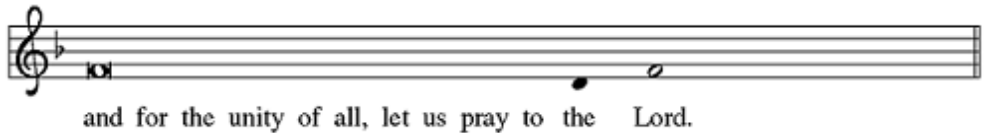
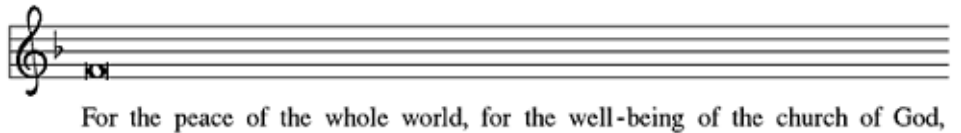
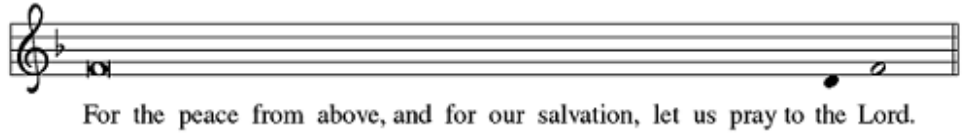
The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† 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



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 nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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

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

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-2, 6-10

To put this reading into context:

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Hear now the reading:

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and love of the LORD.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the snake,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be
glorious.

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
give thanks
and praise to
Jesus Christ,
who is
revealed to us
through the
Gospel
reading.*

† Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

To put this reading into context:

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist
appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a
powerful one who is to come.*

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

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

Children’s Sermon & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Wreath Hymn: Wait for the Lord ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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.

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children's Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction. Christmas pageant rehearsal will take place after worship in place of the 2nd part of Sundays School.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for reflection.

**† Hymn of the Day: Prepare the Royal Highway
ELW 264 vs 1, 3, & 4**

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*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, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and

	<p>every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or in any need, especially Peter, Helen, Max, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Jamie, Mark, Willie, Char, Jen, Rich, Marie, Jeanette . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud... God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>You embrace all who have died, and we give thanks for your faithful promises. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers. 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>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>

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.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† **Offering Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
ELW 257 v 2

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

Refrain

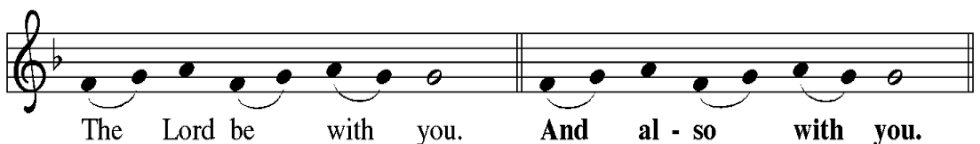
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

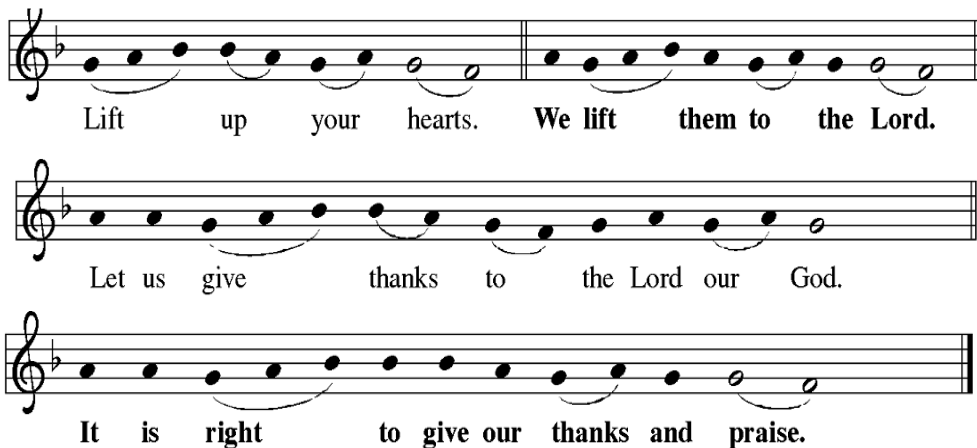
Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

† **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**





Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

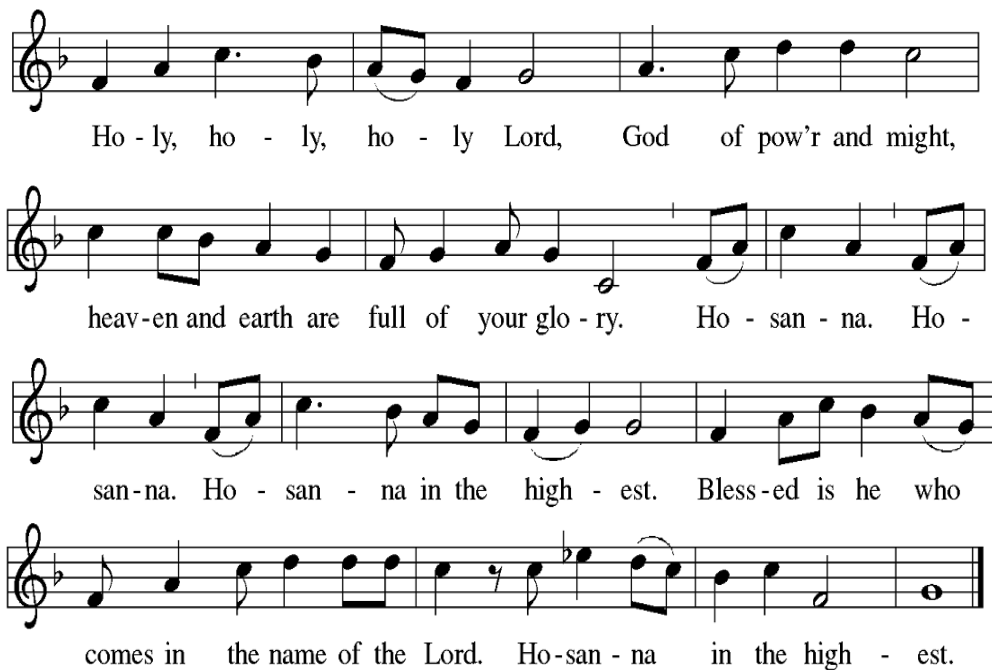
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

<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>
	<p>† Invitation to the Table</p> <p>Be strong, take heart! Do not fear, here is your God.</p>
	<p>† Communion</p> <p><i>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."</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
	<p>Communion Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ELW 272</p> <p>1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,</p>

it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

- 2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

<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: Comfort, Comfort Now My People ELW 256</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <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>

	Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
<i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.</p>
	Postlude

You are warmly invited to join in for coffee hour down the hall from the sanctuary in the kitchen and lounge area.

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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: Michael Wancata Stan Zeager	Counters: Jessica Berkshire Joe Lanter
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Acolyte: Sean Lanter



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Dec 4, 2022

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

For those celebrating birthdays:

Aaron Krankowski (Dec 8), Alin Sburlea (Dec 9)

The flowers adorning the altar today are placed to the glory of God by the Lanter to celebrate Joe and Sean's birthdays.

Advent Small Groups – Advent is a time of preparation and hope. We prepare our hearts for celebrating the birth of Jesus and we look with hope for the good news that Jesus brings to our lives. Good Soil is offering an opportunity to deepen our faith and our relationships with one another through once-a-week Advent small groups.

If you would like to be connected with an Advent Small Group, please contact Deb Yandala at 440-503-4251 or debyandala@gmail.com.

Advent Small Group Session #1 - the week of Nov 28th - Dec 4th

Advent Small Group Session #2 - the week of Dec 5th - Dec 11th

Advent Small Group Session #3 - the week of Dec 12th - Dec 18th

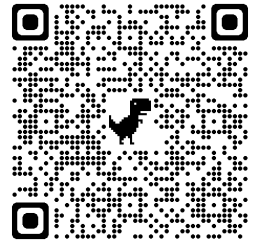
Group meeting times:

- Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Rocky River Panera on Center Ridge Rd.
- Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- *Please note: the Saturday morning in-person group option has been canceled*

Voting on Good Soil's Ministry Funding Plan/Budget for 2023, save the dates!

- Today, Sun, Dec 4, a Q&A session will be held via Zoom for people to ask questions regarding the proposed 2023 narrative budget. A detailed line-by-line budget can be requested at that meeting or by contacting the church office. Find the zoom link in Good Soil's 12/2 e-news or by contacting Council President Eric Carlson (330) 883-0625 or ecarlson.ou@gmail.com
- The following Sun, Dec 11 the congregational meeting will be held to vote on the proposed budget and the nominating committee that will put together the slate for the 2023-2024 council nominations.

“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 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Christmas Pageant Rehearsal • Communion Instruction Class (1st graders and up) • Coffee Hour • Budget Q&A via zoom 	<p>9:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p> <p>12:30 p.m.</p>
Sun, Dec 4	Advent Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Thurs, Dec 8	Advent Small Group in-person at Rocky River Panera	10:00 a.m.
Sun, Dec 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship – First Communion Celebration • Congregational Meeting • Christmas Pageant Practice 	<p>9:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p>
Sun, Dec 11	Advent Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Thurs, Dec 15	Advent Small Group in-person at Rocky River Panera	10:00 a.m.
Sun, Dec 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship –Kid’s Christmas Pageant • Coffee Hour 	<p>9:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p>
Sun, Dec 18	Advent Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Wed, Dec 21	Longest Night Worship	6:30 p.m.
Sat, Dec 24	<p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>In-Person and Livestream Worship</p>	6:30 p.m.
Sun, Dec 25	<p>CHRISTMAS DAY – PAJAMAS AND PRAISE</p> <p><i>***Everyone is invited to come to worship in their pajamas and bring some cookies to share***</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Coffee Hour and “Cookie Potluck” 	<p>9:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p>