

Welcome to Worship at  
***Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church***  
Growing Together for Christ  
Rev. Rebecca Gordon, Interim Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)  
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051  
[www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)



**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**First Sunday of Advent**

We worship in-person and on-line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch the live-stream on Facebook!  
Stay safe and God bless!

**Gathering**

**Welcome/Greeting/Announcements**

## Call to Worship

A: Because of You, Righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem,

**C: trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.**

A: For You, Infant Jesus, we wait,

**C: on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry.**

A: With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve.

**C: those for whom this season is not one of joy; those whose lives are empty of family and friends.**

## Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

A: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

**C: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.**

A: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

**Gathering Songs:** O Come , O Come, Emmanuel  
Everything Falls

## Prayer of the Day

### Word

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup> Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup> You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

**<sup>10</sup> All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

### **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### **GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

P: [Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Ken Gibson**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: “Lord, in your mercy”,.....**C: “Receive our prayer”**

**Offering:** Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God’s love through this congregation. You may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, send your gifts to the church at: 5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051 or give online at [www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)

**Offering Song:** Come, Holy Spirit

**Offering Prayer**

**Meal**

**Confession & Forgiveness**

P: If only our hurtful words, our damaging actions, our foolish choices would just go away. But they don't, and so we offer them, as well as ourselves, to God for forgiveness and for our healing. Please join me, as we pray together saying,

**C: The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people.**

**Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole; and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept)*

P: Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.

**C: Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

## Lord's Supper

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**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:** *Christ is truly present with us today, especially in the gifts of bread and wine. God's table is open; we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table! After the choir is served, come up the center aisle, from front to back. If you are unable to come forward, please let the pastor or another worship leader know, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, simply keep your hands folded. The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is juice. Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten free wafer. All are welcome!*

**Communion Song:** Gratitude

#### Prayer After Communion

#### Sending

**Sending Song:** Song of Hope

## **Sending and Benediction**

P: Now may our God prepare us to serve our siblings.

**C: We will devote ourselves to walking with others to Bethlehem.**

P: Now may our Lord Jesus Christ steer us into all the places we do not want to go.

**C: We will throw ourselves into the mission of feeding the hungry, into the privilege of learning from the poor.**

P: Now may the Holy Spirit move us to increase in love for others.

**C: We will take up the cause of justice in every corner of our lives, we will help to bring the kingdom of hope near to everyone around us.**

## **Commissioning**

P: At Joyful Harvest Church,

**C: our mission is growing together for Christ.**

P: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value:

**C: Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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## **Announcements**

*If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.*



**Poinsettias – Today is the last day to order!:** As we celebrate

the birth of Christ, help us fill the Sanctuary with the beauty

of Poinsettias. After Christmas, take it home or give it

to a

friend. See insert in your bulletin to order yours today!

**First Wednesday Fellowship (Dec 4th)** - (FWF) December's presentation has been cancelled. We thank Bruce & Bard Harmel for all their time and hard work over the years to keep this program going! Currently there are no future programs scheduled. If you are interested in restarting and overseeing this program, please talk to anyone on council.

**Potato Bake & Caroling Sat. Dec 7, @ 5:00 p.m.**

Who doesn't like a perfectly baked potato Smothered in all your favorite toppings? We'll Provide the potatoes, you bring the toppings to share. And if you're ready to get in the holiday spirit – join us as we carol on the "corner"!



**Be part of Worship!** Help out by reading, greeting or assisting in communion! There is a sign-up sheet for Sunday worship on the Welcome Table. No experience necessary!!!

### Weekly Calendar

Tue. Dec 02	<b>Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Dec 02	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:30 p.m.
Wed. Dec 04	<b>Worship Team Meeting</b>	2:30-3:30 p.m.
Thur. Dec 05	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:30 p.m.
Sat. Dec 07	<b>Potato Bake &amp; Caroling on the "Corner"</b>	5:00 p.m.
Sun. Dec 08	<b>Sunday Worship – Welcome New Members</b>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Dec 08	<b>Faith Formation/Confirmation Class</b>	10:30 a.m.

### Upcoming Events

Wed. Dec 11	<b>Council "Christmas" Meeting</b>	6:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec 15	<b>Giving Closet</b>	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Tue. Dec 24	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	7:00 p.m.



