

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Interim Pastor

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www.joyfulharvest.org



November 30th, 2025	First Sunday of Advent
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We worship in-person and on-line at 9:00 am. There is a link on our website to join the on-line Worship Service through Zoom!

Stay safe and God bless!

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

P: We may not know when,

**C: but you are coming to us,
grace overflowing from your heart, O God.**

P: We may not know who,

**C: but your hope will be shared
by the least likely people, Friend of the poor.**

P: We may not know how,

**C: but your peace will transform
our angry words into warm welcomes,
our bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Joy.**

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
(Please join us in "Sharing the Peace")
Father, I Adore You

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn

war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

PSALM: Psalm 122:1-9

¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

² **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be with in your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

Tessa Ancona

Sermon

Pastor Ken Gibson

Hymn of the Day: In the Midst of Winter's Darkness

Prayers of Intercession

A: "God of grace",C: **"Hear our prayer"**

Offering: Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God's love through this congregation. Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed around, you may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, or send your gifts to the church at: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd.,** **Johnsburg, IL 60051** or give online at www.joyfulharvest.org

Offering Prayer

Meal

Confession & Forgiveness

P: We may not know the time, but our every moment is held in God's hands. We may not do and say what we should or could, but God offers us words of forgiveness. Join me as we pray together, saying,

C: Sometimes it is hard for us to take you seriously, God of our lives. With variants still stalking us, how can we think of traveling and being in crowds? With bullies being given unlimited access on social media, why shouldn't we respond with anger and cruel insults? With our hopes turned to ashes, how can we become beacons of light for those in the shadows?

Forgive us, God of holy seasons, and have mercy. In the days to come, may we discover the grace which has always been ours, so we can share it with others. May we taste the sweet goodness of your love, and feed those around us. May we be filled with the peace of your Spirit, so we may expect you to come in those we least expect, in places which surprise us, in moments we overlook, just as you did in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

(Silence is kept)

P: Reach out and touch the kingdom, for it is right next to you. Breathe in, and feel the Spirit of peace and hope. Trust and believe this good news: God is nearer than you might ever imagine.

C: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! We can set aside our differences and embrace everyone, we can seek peace for all in our lives, our neighborhoods, our world. 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: Amazing Grace (to the tune of Auld Lang Syne)

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Sending Song: Song of Hope

Sending and Benediction

P: We may not know when, but we will go,

C: to bring God's grace to our broken world.

P: We may not know who, yet we will go,

C: to receive Jesus' hope from those we are uncomfortable being around.

P: We may not know how, even so we will go,

C: to share the Spirit's peace in the most unusual places.

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. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.



Feed My Starving Children Sat. Dec. 6th, 11:30-1:15pm.

Help us pack meals for children who are less fortunate.

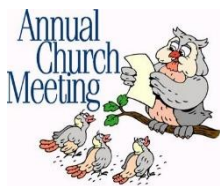
This is a great opportunity to spend time with your family doing God's work. Since we are required to have a certain number of volunteers, please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office at 847-497-4569. If you would like to ride share/carpool, please arrive at the Church no later than 10:15am as we will be leaving by 10:30am.

If you prefer you can go directly to the facility at 742 E Park Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048. Please arrive at the facility by 11:15am.

For more information see Trudy Moriarty. No experience necessary!!!



Poinsettias – Order Yours Now thru Dec 7th: 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!



Annual Meeting Sun. Jan 11th @ 10:30 a.m.

Come and hear about all the exciting things happening at Joyful Harvest. Get updates on the call process, new budget, and upcoming events. Your attendance is very important as a quorum of voting members is required to conduct church business.

Weekly Calendar

Tue. Dec 02	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Dec 02	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Dec 04	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Dec 07	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Dec 07	NO - Faith Formation Class	10:30-11:00 a.m.
Sat. Dec 06	Feed My Starving Children	11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed. Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service	6:00 p.m.
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Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Sun. Jan 11 - Annual Meeting

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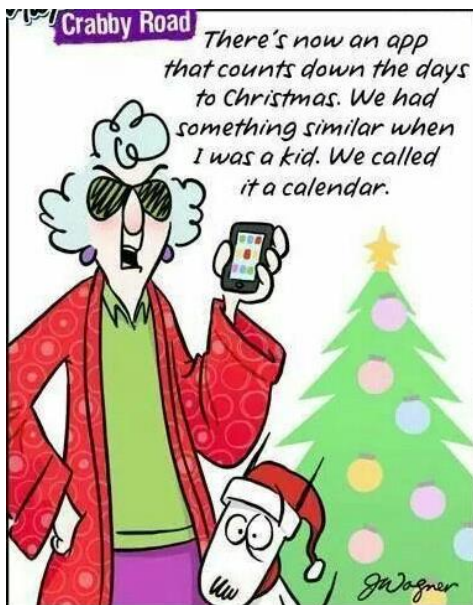
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Hymn of the day "In the Midst of Winter's Darkness" is used by permission through:

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Tune: French folk tune, 17th cent.



NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Advent is the season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The coming of salvation
Monday	Isaiah 2:1-5	Peace that lasts forever
Tuesday	Romans 13:11-14	The day when Christ returns
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-7	The great faith of God’s people
Thursday	Psalms 125	A song of trust in God
Friday	1 John 1:5-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 122	A song of praise
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! Isaiah 2:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, you who are the light of the world, guide our steps to walk in your light. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we eat and drink with thankful hearts this day, for all that you provide every day and in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May all go well with you and may peace be within you, through Christ our light and our salvation.



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you were waiting for someone or something with excitement.
- Advent means *arrival* or *coming*. How do you get ready for the coming of Jesus?
- In dark times Jesus brings light and hope. How do you experience hope?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 2:1-5.

Advent is a season of hope and anticipation of God's action to redeem and save the world. That is Isaiah's message, too. Isaiah sees what others do not. Isaiah sees Jerusalem as the highest mountain, but Psalm 125:2 sees other peaks as higher. Isaiah sees the people walking in the paths of the LORD's teaching, but before and after Isaiah 2, judgment is announced for the people's disobedience. Isaiah sees weapons of violence and destruction that are turned into farming tools, but the nations of Israel and Judah were utterly destroyed by its neighbors. The message of Isaiah is a message of hope that the Christian faith holds to while brokenness and sin are still seen every day of our lives.

Discuss: What hope do you cling to as a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **Come Lord Jesus, come and bring peace between nations. May we see the light of your glory in all the world. Amen.**

SERVICE



In Psalm 122:8 it says: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." During this season of hope, list ways you can give hope to those who are sad or anxious and help them to feel "the peace within." How will you choose to let your light shine through acts of service to others during the four weeks of Advent?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Set up or make an Advent wreath for your home. There are four candles in a circle on the wreath and one in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God. The four candles are often blue to signify the hope of the Advent season. The center candle is white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This first week you will light one candle. *Say:* This is the first week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of Hope. [Light one candle] *Read:* O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5) *Respond:* Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us hope.

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope. May we walk in the light of the Lord and live in peace with all that you have made. Amen.**



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