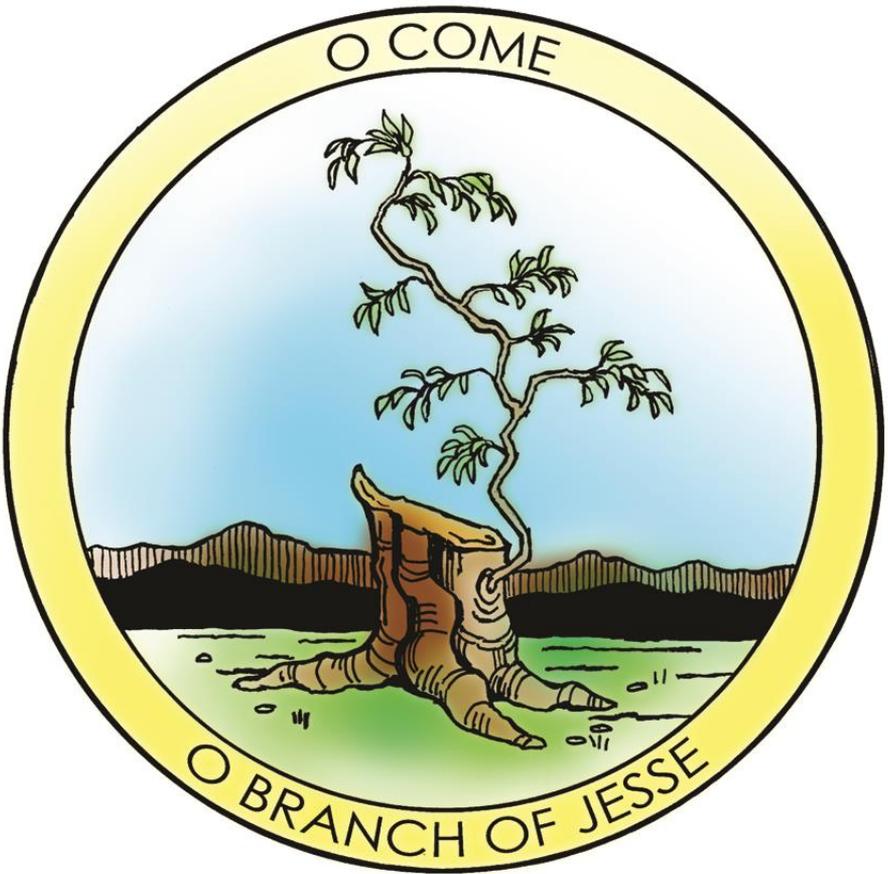


Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Church
Growing Together for Christ
Rev. Dr. Douglas Liston, Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org



December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

This week we will be worshipping in-person and on-line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch on Zoom, or you can watch the live-stream on Facebook! Stay safe and God bless!

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

In this season of bumper to bumper stress, with life more crowded than the stores,

God welcomes us to a feast of faithfulness, where we may sit in peace and gentleness.

In these times of rancorous rants and snide remarks, with people too busy to offer words of compassion,

Jesus whispers of hope for broken hearts, sings carols of justice for all the outsiders.

In these days of more and more time spent with devices, and fewer moments with those who could touch us with joy,

the Spirit embraces us with peace that comforts, loves us with a passion beyond all imagination.

Gathering Songs

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Let us pray:

We're in trouble, Holy God. So many in the world do not know peace in their countries or in their hearts. We use weapons of steel and barbed words to wound one another. We seek balm for our restless hearts in things that only make us more wounded. Open our hearts to Jesus so we may have the peace of his holy presence and live it in our unpeaceful world. Save us from outside violence and inner turmoil. We need you. Come, peaceful God, come. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10 (NRSV)

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 the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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 asp, 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.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (NRSV)

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

²**May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁸**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

¹⁹Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13 (NRSV)

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSV)

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea...

This is the gospel of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Prayers of Intercession

Meal

Offering/Offering Song

Friends, while our programs and in-person worship are temporarily modified, our responsibilities for our regular bills (mortgage, utilities, payroll, etc.) continue. Please send your gifts to the church office: 5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051 or you may give online at www.joyfulharvest.org.

Call to Reconciliation

All too often, we believe God's vision of justice and peace is only for us, not for those around us. We are sure others need to be cleansed and forgiven, but not us. Let us seek to live as if, indeed, the kingdom is coming near, as we offer our prayers to the One who calls us to Advent living, as we pray together...

Goodness Incarnate, we must confess that we have not lived as your children. We muddy the clear waters of baptism with the detritus of walking over those we claim we love. We sit in our lonely lives feasting on bitterness, when we could be feasting with those we are told not to trust. We wait for all our desires to be taken care of by you, while you hope we would fill the lives of others with your grace and hope. Forgive us, God of this holy season, and help us to be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, embrace their grief, and love them as you did when you came to us so long ago, as well as in these moments, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept...

Here is the good news: speak with the whispers of hope until it silences despair; sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus; shower others with wonder and delight and join in God's dance of grace.

Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! So, let us welcome others with open arms, just as we have been embraced in God's love and laughter. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

Communion Song

Sending

Sending Song

Sending and Benediction

As God has welcomed us in these moments,

let us go to embrace each person we meet.

As Jesus has been our servant of hope and grace,

let us go to serve the most vulnerable around us.

As the Spirit of hope has filled us,

let us go to empty ourselves of joy and peace for all.

Commissioning

At Joyful Harvest Church, **our mission is growing together for Christ.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value: **Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's**

Community. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Order of service may change to accommodate the Holy Spirit...

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Announcements

St. Jude Children's Ranch: We are collecting greeting cards! Please bring in the whole card Juanita will separate the front from the back. Save your used holiday and all-occasion cards, bring them to the church, and we'll ship them off to St. Jude's!



Food Gathering: We're collecting salad dressing! (They get lots of lettuce!) for the Northern Illinois Helping Hands food pantry! Help us feed those in our community who are in need. Please leave your items in the bin in the narthex!

Cross Keys Village Stampers: Cut used postage stamps from the mail you receive at home, bring it to the church and we'll make sure the Cross Keys folks receive them!

Live-Streaming and In-Person Monday Evening Bible Study! Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Until Christmas, we are doing a Bible Study on the movie, *It's a Wonderful Life!* What a great opportunity for discussions and learning more about the faith! Held in-person at Joyful Harvest Church and Via Zoom!

Men's Group: We are currently meeting in-person and online Saturday mornings @ 7 a.m. to learn more about God's call on our lives. All men are invited to attend.

Donate to help the ministries of Joyful Harvest! Scan the QR code on the left with your mobile device or visit the giving kiosk in the narthex. You'll go straight to our online giving page to set up a one-time or recurring gift through your debit/credit card processed through PayPal. Your generous gift will support our many outreach ministries. ***Thank you for making so much possible!***



Joyful Readers Book Club: Do you like to read and are looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark on a new fellowship opportunity. **Next meeting date will be January 21 at 9:00 a.m.!** They'll be choosing their next book then! Contact Kim DuBois for more information!



Donate for Tijuana Mission Project! - Toys and school supplies! When our volunteers go to Tijuana this year, they would like to take some items that the kids can use. *If you should see a backpack on sale for the kids, we can fill it with school supplies. Soccer balls or footballs can be deflated and taken. Jump ropes, small toys, t-shirts for kids would be good, too.* There is a box in the narthex for donations. *Thanks so much for your generosity.* See Ray Pratscher or Theresa Ancona for info.

Weekly Calendar

Sun. Dec 04	Sunday Worship <i>In-Person & Live-Streaming</i>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Dec 04	Soundtrack of Christmas Concert and Sing-along	2:00 p.m.
Mon. Dec 05	<i>No DiscipleShip Bible Study!</i>	
Tue. Dec 06	Breakfast Club – Granny’s Diner, Johnsburg	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Dec 06	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Thur. Dec 08	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Sat. Dec 10	Men’s Group <i>In-Person & Live Streaming</i>	7:00 a.m.
Sun. Dec 11	Sunday Worship <i>In-Person & Live-Streaming</i>	9:00 a.m.
Mon. Dec 12	Discipleship Bible Study	6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Dates – Mark Your Calendars!

December 4, 2 p.m.

Soundtrack of Christmas Concert/Sing-along

December 11, 10 a.m.

Poinsettia Orders Due

December 17, 5 p.m.

Potato Bake and Caroling on the Corner

December 18, 7 p.m.

In-Person and Zoom/Facebook Blue Christmas

December 24, 7 p.m.

In-person and Zoom/Facebook Christmas Eve Worship

December 25, 9 a.m.

In-person and Zoom/Facebook Christmas Day Worship

For though my faith is not yours, and your faith is not mine, if we are each free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world.

--Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



DECEMBER 4, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



taking†
faith
home

Advent is the season of peace.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Isaiah 11:1-10	The peaceful kingdom
Tuesday	Romans 15:4-13	Good news for Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Thursday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's people will celebrate
Friday	2 Thessalonians 3:16	Final greeting of peace
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	A prayer for guidance for the king
Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fating together, and a little child shall lead them. **Isaiah 11:6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, you who bring peace and hope to the world, guide our steps to walk in your peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for this food. May this gift of love strengthen us to live lives of hope and peace through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life. Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you are concerned about or that worries you?
- What is something you see in the world around you that gives you a sense of peace?
- Jesus comes to bring peace. How do you experience the peace that Jesus brings?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 3:1-12.

In the Bible the wilderness is a place of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. With John the Baptist, something most dramatic is happening in the wilderness: preparing for the coming of Jesus into our world and lives, the ultimate experience of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. John sounds harsh with words of judgment, not peace and hope. However, God's work of judgment is its own act of preparation that we may be made new. God's judgment condemns sin, death, and evil so that they may be destroyed. That is our great hope. Name places and situations in our world today where we gladly let the life of sin and death be swallowed up in forgiveness and peace.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, come into our lives and put an end to all that is within us that is not part of your kingdom of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**

SERVICE

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 3:2). The word repent in Greek means to change one's mind or purpose. John the Baptist wanted people to repent and live a life that "bears fruit" (v. 8). Leading a Christian life means being fruitful and bearing good fruit. Think about what this means. In what ways can people tell that you are a bearer of good fruit?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week we light two candles on the Advent wreath in our homes. They are the candles of Hope and Peace. Today's candle reflects the peaceful kingdom.

Say: This is the second week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope and Peace. [Light two candles] *Read:* The 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. (Isaiah 11:6) *Respond:* Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives peace.

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope and peace. Amen.**



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Join us for worship: Sundays 9 am!