

W elcome to W orship  
St. Luke's E vangelical  
Lutheran C hurch

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December 17, 2023



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*

Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*

Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>

eMail: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)

Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

## Assisting in Worship

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Worship Leader: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Dwight Patterson*

Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*

Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*

## To the Glory of God

December Candles: *Carol Williams*

December Bulletins: *Carol Williams*

December Newsletter: [\*available for sign-up\*](#)



**The flowers** are given by Peg, Judy, and Bill Roberts and Jane Leggiero in loving memory of Rachel Elizabeth Roberts Leggiero, whose birthday was December 21.

**Choir** rehearsals are Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. You may join us anytime. Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join us. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

# Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.*

*\*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

*Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Gracious God." When you exhale, pray, "open my heart."*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great -

**ALL: God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.**

Leader: Let us worship God today, for God is good -

**ALL: God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.**

Leader: Let us worship God today in the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the holy Spirit.

**ALL: Because we are God's people**

#### \*GATHERING HYMN # 249      ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

#### \*ADVENT PROCLAMATION

Leader: These are the days of expectation, the days of watching and waiting. God has promised us a Savior who will change our lives and make us new. *You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the fields will clap their hands!* Let us light the

candle of JOY, praying for divine joy in our hearts and in the hearts of all God's children.

(Isaiah 55:12)

## \*ADVENT RESPONSE

CONGREGATION

Light one can - dle for joy, one bright can - dle for  
joy He brings joy to ev - 'ry heart He  
comes. He comes. Light one can-dle for  
joy one bright can-dle for joy  
He brings joy to ev - 'ry heart. He comes. He comes.

## AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Please take a moment for silent confession.*

Leader: Everlasting God,

**ALL: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.  
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness  
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.  
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.  
We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation's bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Leader: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. Amen.

### \***KYRIE HYMN #151**



1, 3 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

### \***CONFSSIONAL RESPONSE**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

### \***THIS IS THE FEAST**



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.  
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of  
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry, for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Let us pray:

**ALL: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and fill us with your joy, that we may shine as light to the world. We rejoice that you came to us in human flesh and that you abide with us still, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

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### **PROPHETIC READING**

ISAIAH 6:1-4, 8-11

Reader: The spirit of the LORD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a

garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM READING**

*(responsively)*

PSALM 126

Reader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

**ALL: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

Reader: The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

**ALL: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

Reader: Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**ALL: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **DISCIPLESHIP READING**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Reader: Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**



## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 2 pg 124

**ALL:** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Leader/  
Cantor  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

**ALL:** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:1-14

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 1. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He

himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY #246**

HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING!

### **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

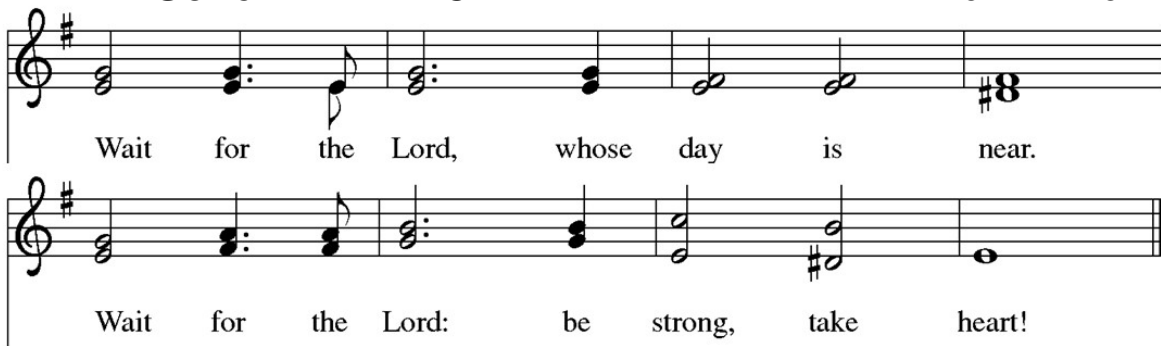
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

## \*PRAYER SONG HYMN #262

WAIT FOR THE LORD



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Rick, Kolton, Ron, Jim, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Cali, Howard, Jim, Emelyn, Isabella, Mary Ann, Kevin, Shirley, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Doug, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Holly, Tessa, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

## \*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US

**All: 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**



## \*REPEAT PRAYER SONG HYMN #262

WAIT FOR THE LORD

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: and also with you.**

Leader: Let the peace of Christ reign among us.

*Please share God's peace."*



### INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: In gratitude and with joy for all that we have received from God let us now present our tithes, and offerings for the work and mission of God's church.

### OFFERTORY

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #182

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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# GOD NOURISHES US

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## \*THE TABLE PRAYER

Leader: God of all creation, all you have made is good.

**ALL: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from our abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 129

Leader: The God of hope be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts in the hope of Christ. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.

**ALL: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life and the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our**

**lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. And so, with all the universe and the hosts of heaven, we join in praise and sing...**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: In the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying

**ALL: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**

Leader: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks; and gave it for all to drink, saying

**ALL: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.**

Leader: For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. In this meal, righteousness and joy meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

## DISTRIBUTION

### \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #204

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join me prayer,

**ALL: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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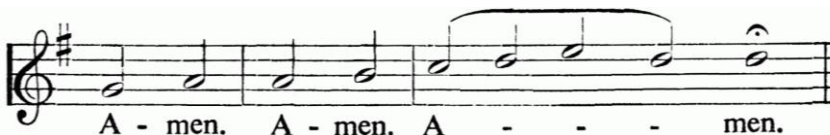
## GOD SENDS US

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### \*BLESSING

Leader: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

### \*THE AMEN



A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

**\*SENDING HYMN #251**

MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS

**\*DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go out and share the joy of the season with your neighbors.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



**ELCA “Hunger Appeal” Offering** - Each week as we leave worship, we remember the poor by placing loose change offerings in the “hunger bowls” on the Information Table in the Narthex.

Please remember to stop by the Information Table and sign the greeting cards, reminding our members and friends that we are thinking about them.

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“*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*” TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite MUSIC: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

“*Kyrie*” TEXT: Dinah Reindorf, b.c. 1927 MUSIC: 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

“*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!*” TEXT: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 MUSIC: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

“*Wait for the Lord*” TEXT: Taize Community MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994 TEXT AND MUSIC © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

“*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*” TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress

“*Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*” TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 TEXT AND MUSIC © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress

“*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*” TEXT: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat MUSIC: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1872-1958 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress arr. © Oxford University Press

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**NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty DECEMBER** requested donations include mac & cheese, pasta and pasta sauces.

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*December 24, 2023*

*St. John's Lutheran Church in McComb*

*8:00 a.m. Celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent*

*7:00 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve*

*St. Luke's Lutheran Church in North Baltimore*

*10:15 a.m. Celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent*

*9:15 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve Music*

*9:30 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve Worship*

*Both services in person and on Facebook*

**The glory of the Lord shall be revealed!**

It is not too late to participate in the Advent study. Pick up an Advent calendar and study guide today.

# Sermon Notes

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** for the HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE of the Advent Season. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Cali, Howard Till, Emelyn, Isabella, Keven Bickle, Shirley Hollowell, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**GRIEVING:** Bertha and Jen Carter and family following the death of Jim, on December 6.

**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**THE WORLD:** for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

## Give Witness and Rejoice

The third Sunday of Advent—also known as *Gaudete (rejoice)*—is one in which the church has rejoiced as the advent of the Messiah draws nearer.



Whether or not you mark this Sunday with a pink candle on the wreath, the texts for the day echo this rejoicing, this “we’re almost there” excitement, in a multitude of ways. Isaiah couples images of a people restored with images of weddings and springtime and oak trees. The psalmist offers up images of a harvest festival, and Paul urges us to rejoice “always.”

John the Baptist, in his own way, calls for rejoicing by his acknowledgment that he is *not* what we are waiting for. John, like us, has a mission to bear witness, but when he says “I am not,” we hear a clear contrast to all the ways Jesus will identify himself with the Father: “I am the bread of life.” “I am the resurrection.” “I am the good shepherd.” All these things Jesus will be for God’s people, but John’s job is simply to bear witness to the light.

How do we bear witness, while still waiting? Or can joy in the midst of waiting be that very witness? In Advent we are not called to act as though we do not know how this story ends, as though Jesus’ birth and life, death and resurrection, are still before us. But we *do* know that sense of longing for God’s salvation to be fulfilled, and the temptation to imagine that we have to save ourselves, instead of waiting for God’s purposes to be worked out in God’s time. John reminds us that there can be joy in taking our proper place, pointing to Jesus without needing to *be* Jesus.

215 North Second Street, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-1105  
419-257-3253 [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)  
[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)