

An Advent Tea Celebration

11 December Anno ✝ Domini 2012 ~ 7:00 p.m.

“Repent, for the King Is At Hand”



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

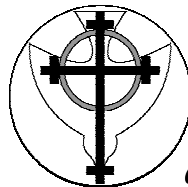
325 E. Warwick Dr.

Alma, MI 48801

(989) 463-5754

www.peacealma.org

contact@peacealma.org



Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor

Home: (989) 463-3093

Cell: (989) 388-2037

pastormesser@gmail.com

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Welcome

With great joy, we welcome you ladies to our congregation for our 6th annual Advent Tea Celebration. It is our goal this evening to provide you with a peaceful, relaxing atmosphere in which you can escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season for a couple of hours to prayerfully reflect upon the true reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We sincerely hope and pray that your time with us will be blessed, that your lives will be touched, and your faith enlivened, by the message you hear.

About Advent

The word, “Advent,” means “coming,” or “arrival.” It comes from the Latin *adventus*, which signifies the approach of someone of dignity, power, and glory, someone who has the power to bestow favor or exact penalties. The coming of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, is the epitome of such an *adventus*.

The season of Advent, which always begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas day, has a long history within the Christian Church. Like Lent, the season which precedes Easter, Advent is a penitential season in which Christians take stock of their lives, recognize their sinfulness, and realize their desperate need for a Savior. As they examine themselves, they are led to repentance and to joyfully anticipate the coming of the Savior they need in the birth of Jesus Christ. The season of Advent leads up to the grand celebration of the miraculous and glorious event in which God became one of us in the flesh of Jesus to save us from our sins. But, Advent is not only a time for Christians to focus on the glory of Christ’s first coming. It’s also a time for Christians to meditate upon the fact that the same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, died at Calvary, rose from the tomb on Easter morn, and ascended into heaven, continues to come to them by means of His Holy Word and Sacraments, and will return in great glory on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. Christians look forward to that great and glorious Day, for it is then that they will be welcomed into their Lord’s eternal and perfect kingdom to enjoy unimaginable peace, joy, and comfort in Paradise. The prayer of Christians throughout the season of Advent, as they prepare for the celebration of Christ’s birth, contemplate how He continues to come today, and anticipate His glorious return on the Last Day, is “Come, Lord Jesus, Come.”

A Word of Welcome and Introduction of Participants

Opening Prayer

- P** Let us pray: Heavenly Father, you have shown Yourself to be faithful to Your promises, for You sent Your Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Quiet our minds this evening and in the days ahead, that we might, in faith, remain focused on the coming of our Savior. Bless our time together, that we may be strengthened and inspired by Your Holy Word and by the fellowship we enjoy with one another. May all that we do and say be to Your glory, honor, and praise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Repent, for the King Is At Hand, Part 1:

In the Beginning . . .

(The prophets prophesy about the One who will come to forgive sins and give life eternal)



“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(Stanzas 1 and 3 - soloist Roger Humphrey; stanzas 2 and 4 - all)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! | 3. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! |
| 2. O come, o come, thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! | 4. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! |

Repent, for the King Is At Hand, Part 2:

The Birth of the One Who Will Be Savior and King

(The angel Gabriel announces that the time has come for the Birth of the Savior)



“Holy Is Your Name”

*(All stanzas and first refrain by soloist Carol Zeile;
All join in singing the refrain after stanza 2)*

1. *My soul is filled with joy
as I sing to God my Savior:
you have looked upon your servant,
you have visited your people.*

Refrain:

**And holy is your name,
through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy
to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name.**

2. *I am lowly as a child,
but I know from this day forward
that my name will be remembered,
for all will call me blessed.*

(Refrain)

3. *I proclaim the pow’r of God,
you do marvels for your servants;
though you scatter the proud-hearted,
and destroy the might of princes.*

(Refrain)

4. *To the hungry you give food,
send the rich away empty.
In your mercy you are mindful
of the people you have chosen.*

(Refrain)

5. *In your love you now fulfill
what you promised to your people.
I will praise you Lord, my Savior,
everlasting is your mercy.*

(Refrain)

Repent, for the King Is At Hand, Part 3:

The Birth of the Savior and King Fulfilled

(The Savior is born in lowly circumstances, in the little town of Bethlehem)



“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

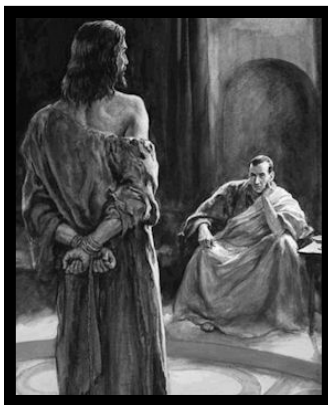
(Stanzas 1 and 4 by soloist Roger Humphrey; Stanzas 2 and 3 sung by all)

1. *O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*
2. *For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!*
3. *How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in the world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.*
4. *O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide in us,
Our Lord Immanuel!*

Repent, for the King Is At Hand, Part 4:

The Preaching of the Forerunner, John the Baptist

(John the Baptist prepares the way for the coming of the Savior)



“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

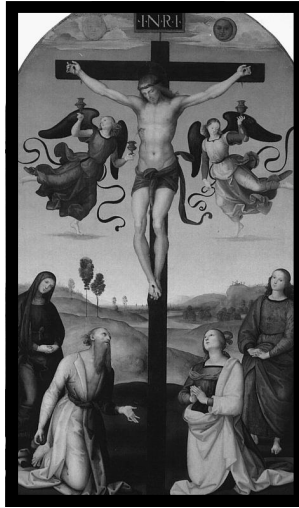
(Stanzas 1 and 3 by soloist Carol Zeile; Stanzas 2 and 4 by soloist Roger Humphrey)

1. *On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!*
2. *Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.*
3. *We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.*
4. *Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.*

Repent, for the King Is At Hand, Part 5:

It Is Finished!

(This Savior Enthroned on a Cross Is Our Rescue from Sin, Death, and the Devil)



“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

(Soloist Roger Humphrey)

1. O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinner's gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.

Repent, for the King Is At Hand, Part 6:

The King Came, Still Comes, and Will Come Again

(This King will return in great glory on the Last Day to usher in His eternal kingdom)



“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

(Soloist Carol Zeile)

1. *Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev’ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.*

2. *Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow’r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!*

The Lighting of the Table Candles

The table hostesses light their individual candles from the light of the Christ Candle and then light their table candles. After all of the table candles have been lit, the lights will be turned down and we will pray:



P Let us pray: O God, because you once caused that holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

A Time for Dessert and Fellowship

May the Lord bless the time you spend together at your tables. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the delicious dessert your hostess has prepared for you. The men will be around to fill your cups with your beverage of choice. Guitarist Roger Humphrey will entertain you.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Let us pray: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom. We thank you especially for the blessing of Your presence among us, for the fellowship we have shared, and for preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, in whose Name we pray.

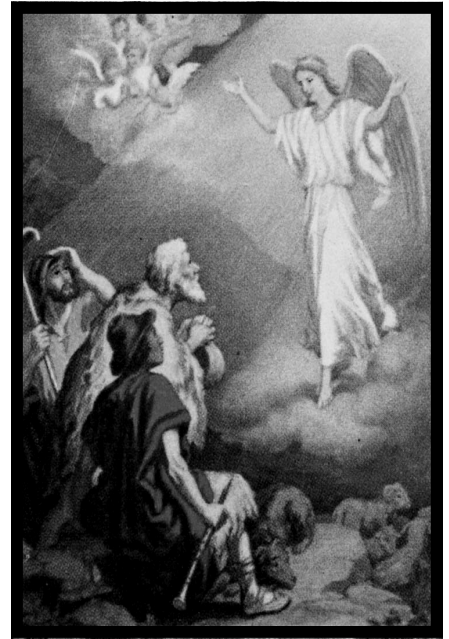
C Amen.

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

(Sung by All)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. | 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. |
|--|--|

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.



“Hymn to Christ the King”

By Clement of Alexandria, 150-215 A.D.

*O Thou, the King of saints, all-conquering Word,
Son of the Highest, wisdom’s Fount and Lord,
The prop that doth uphold through toil and pain;
The joy of ages through immortal reign;
Yet born of mortal flesh for life’s brief span,
O Saviour Jesus, Shepherd, Husbandman;
Helm Thou to guide, and bridle to restrain,
Wing of the holy flock that heaven would gain;
Catcher of men from evil’s whelming sea,
The holy fishes, saved that are to be,*

*Drawn from the billowy deep with sweetest lure
Of life that shall for evermore endure:
O holiest Shepherd of enlightened sheep,
Lead Thou Thy flock the upward heavenly steep:
O King of holy children, lead the way,
And pure may they both follow and obey!
Thou art, O Christ, the living heavenly Way,
The ever-flowing Word, unchanging Day,
Eternal Light, and mercy’s healthful Spring;
The Perfecter of every virtuous thing;*

*Pure Life of all the happy ransomed throng
Who hymn their God through all the ages long:
The heavenly milk, from holy breasts that flows,
By which the infant Church in wisdom grows,
And graces rare, as it befits the Bride,
Adorned, O Jesus Christ, for Thine own side.
Thy feeble children gather with sweet smile,
To sing with holy mouth, and free from guile,
Thyself, in songs and praises without end,
The children’s leader, and the children’s friend.
O little children, thus so gently led,
So tenderly with truth and reason fed,
And filled with the Holy Spirit’s dew,
Our hymns and praises feeble, yet all true,*

*In grateful homage unto Christ the King,
Who taught us life, let us together sing:
A peaceful choir, Christ-born, and undefiled,
A people wise, sing we the strong-born child;
Sing we with heart and voice, and never cease
To praise with one accord the God of Peace!*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(Stanzas 1 and 3 by soloist Carol Zeile; Stanzas 2 and 4 sung by all)

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2. Highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin,
a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.



3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:
O, come, let us adore Him,
O, come, let us adore Him,
O, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee
be glory given!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

“Don’t Forget Jesus”

By M.S. Lowndes

*Christmas is a special time
To reflect on Jesus Christ
The wonder of His lowly birth
Brings meaning to our lives*

*We lose sight of the true meaning
As we endlessly rush about
Trying to find that perfect gift
Seems to cloud our Savior out*

*There really is no other reason
We celebrate this day
The birth of God’s precious Son
And the life He willingly gave*

*We need to stop and reflect awhile
Remembering our precious Lord
His birth, His life, and sacrifice
And all that He stands for*

*But so much seems to distract us
In the busy-ness of our lives
We lose our focus in all the happenings
Not knowing, we leave out Christ*

*For though the world may celebrate
It seems though for other reasons
Let’s keep in mind that Jesus Christ
Is the true meaning of the season*

✠ Jesus is the Reason for the Season ✠



“Joy to the World”

*(Stanzas 1 and 3 by soloist Roger Humphrey;
Stanzas 2 and 4 sung by all)*



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart
Prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make
His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of
His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Prayer for Preparation

P Let us pray: Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly desires and to not get side-tracked by the busy nature of the world in which we live, that we may remain steadfast in the one, true faith, and that we may ever stand ready for Your holy visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

(Soloist Carol Zeile sings stanza 1 in German. Then, all sing all three stanzas in English)

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

(Stanza 3 sung without piano)

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth



Concluding Collect

P Let us pray: O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge. Until that great and glorious Day, keep us, O God, in the faith, and use us as Your instruments in this dead and dying world to share Your Gospel and spread Your love, that others might know the salvation accomplished by Your Son; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Blessing

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C Amen.



“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

(Sung by All)

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!



1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth. *(Refrain)*



3. Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)*



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the Glory!)

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR SERVICE!

Divine Service on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study and Sunday School at 11:15 a.m.

Upcoming Advent and Christmas Schedule

Evening Prayer on Wed. Dec. 12 and 19 at 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve - Lessons and Carols at 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve (Day) - Midnight Mass at 11:30 p.m.
Christmas Morning - Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.
We would love to have you join us sometime!



Special Thanks to:

Roger Humphrey (Guitarist and Soloist)

Roger has been providing music for wedding ceremonies, wedding receptions, business meetings, and corporate functions throughout Michigan since 1972. He has performed in locations from Grosse Pointe Farms to Mackinac Island, Traverse City to Grand Rapids, Lansing, Jackson, Battle Creek, and . . . well, you get the idea. Past clients have included former First Lady, and now Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, General Motors, Chrysler Motors, and the cashier at the local grocery store. Roger has played at functions which have included several hundred guests, as well as those with as few as six. All of his clients receive the same level of professionalism, from the quality of music they expect, to the personal attention they deserve. In addition to performing, Roger has been teaching students of the guitar for nearly forty years. We are blessed to have Roger as a member of our congregation, and thrilled that he will be performing for us. For more information about Roger, or to book him for an event, visit his website: www.rogerhumphrey.com.

Carol Zeile (Soloist)

Carol is the Library Director at Alma College, her alma mater, from which she graduated with a B.A. in Spanish and History in 1974. She also earned an M.A. in Spanish from Indiana University in 1976, and an M.L.S. (Master of Library Science) from Western Michigan University in 1978. Prior to returning "home" to Alma College in 1998, Carol held a variety of positions throughout her professional career, most of which were at the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to serving as Library Director, she has also taught Spanish at Alma. Along with her many other talents, Carol has a beautiful singing voice and has been singing in our Peace Choir for years. She also regularly serves as Cantor for us during Divine Service. We are very thankful to have her performing for us tonight!

Minister:

Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor

Pianist:

Mary Jakolat

Guitarist:

Roger Humphrey

Soloists:

Roger Humphrey
Carol Zeile

Advent Tea Committee:

Lisa Messer Gretchen Harrison
Lois Ramsey Dorothy Trgina

Table Hostesses:

Jenny Baughman
Megan Brown
Gretchen Harrison/Sharyn Greening
Carolyn Johnson/Miriam Cross
Lisa Messer
Marlene Miller
Lois Ramsey
Tina Schafer
Dorothy Trgina

Parking Attendants and Servers:

Gabriel Blair
Larry Elliott
Terry Luplow
Pastor Messer
Gary Miller