

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

2nd Sunday of Christmas January 3, 2021

P=Presider **R=Responses**

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

"Mary, Did You Know?" by Mark Lowry & Buddy Graves; Arr. Dan Coates

(Please stand, kneel or remain seated)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

P Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God of goodness and lovingkindness,

R we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through ☩ Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

R Amen

SENDING HYMN *"Angels, from the Realms..."* (vs.1-3)

HYMN NO. 275

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

R Thanks be to God.

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

~Music: A Spring Carol, c. 14th Century; Lyrics: Joseph Simpson Cook

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

R **And also with you.**

RESPONSE

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

How to make a financial offering:

- Place your gift in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary as you exit
- Mail your offering envelope to the church office
- Check out Zion's website for online donation option via [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)
OR you can go directly to this link <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1367077>
- Set up direct bill pay at your personal bank

*And always remember, there are **many** ways we can make offerings to God, such as prayer and acts of service.*

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

-Music: John Calkin - Johnny Marks; Lyrics: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

(Please stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Hear us, O God.

R **Your mercy is great.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

R **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**

GATHERING

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN "*Bright and Glorious...*" (vs.1,3,4,5) **HYMN NO. 301**

**Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above,
beckon us to heav'n above.**

**Sages from the East afar,
when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations
and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king,
to the child, the newborn king.**

**Him they found in Bethlehem,
yet he wore no diadem;
there they saw a maiden lowly
with an infant pure and holy
resting in her loving arms,
resting in her loving arms.**

**Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.**

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

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

R **And also with you.**

(Please remain standing as you are able)

KYRIE *(Spoken)*

HYMNAL p. 147

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

R Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE *(Spoken)* "Glory to... **HYMNAL p. 148**

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

R Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R Amen

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN

"We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vs.1,3,4)

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

***Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!***

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. *Refrain***

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize, in the words of the Apostles' Creed

R 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

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (NRSV)

P The gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON "Follow That Star" **Rev. Ron Windecker**

(Please be seated)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ray Salinas

WORD

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.
 I will turn their mourning into joy,
 I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
 says the LORD. (NRSV)

L The Word of the Lord.
R Thanks be to God.

PSALM (*Spoken responsively by verse*) **Psalm 147:12-20**

L ¹² Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
 Praise your God, O Zion!
**R ¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
 he blesses your children within you.**
 L ¹⁴ He grants peace within your borders;
 he fills you with the finest of wheat.
**R ¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth;
 his word runs swiftly.**
 L ¹⁶ He gives snow like wool;
 he scatters frost like ashes.
**R ¹⁷ He hurls down hail like crumbs—
 who can stand before his cold?**
 L ¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them;
 he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
**R ¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob,
 his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**
 L ²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
 they do not know his ordinances.
 Praise the LORD! (NRSV)

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. (NRSV)

L The Word of the Lord.
R Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Sung*) **HYMNAL p. 151**



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: our homebound and shut-ins, all other nursing home residents, Myrtle Becker, Claribel Hannemann, Margaret Wilke, our Fredericksburg community, our government, our nation, and the military.

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jim and Emma Jane O'Neal. They were married 62 years ago on December 27 in Zion Lutheran Church.

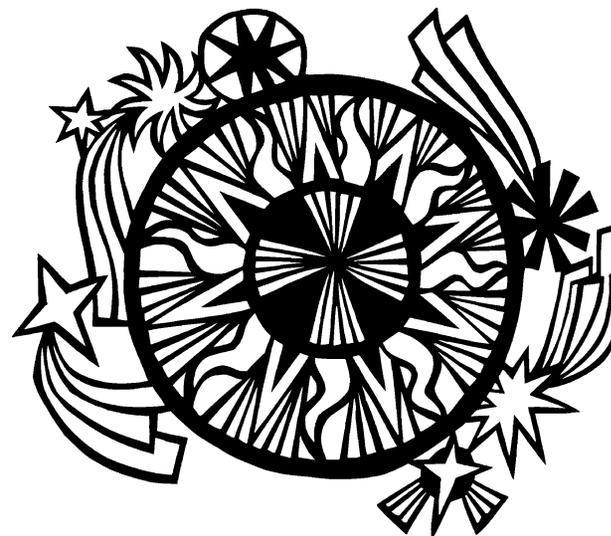
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The Special Concern for January is the Fredericksburg Food Pantry. They are in desperate need for food and monetary donations. You may write your check out to Zion with Food Pantry in the memo line. Thank you for your support.

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Committee Annual Report Deadline was December 10. Please email them to zionfbg@gmail.com.

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You may pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes from the church office. If you call ahead of time, we can leave them on the front porch for you as you request.

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Thank you for your General Fund Contributions of \$7,545 given this past week.

WORSHIP LECTOR – Margaret Solbrig



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fredericksburg, Texas

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2nd Sunday of Christmas January 3, 2021

Broadcast on KNAF (910AM) at 10:30AM

Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 10:30AM

(go to www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube)

Podcast available www.zion-lutheran.com under sermons tab

Senior Pastor – Rev. Ron Windecker; prwzion@gmail.com

Associate Pastor – Rev. Lisa Hoelscher; pastorlisah@gmail.com

Accompanist – Sheri Robinson; Director of Music – Ray Salinas

Videographer – Peter Ray

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