

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, Pa 18036

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Pastor: Rev. James Hammond 610-437-1960; jjtrev1@verizon.net

Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048; e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

Third Sunday of Advent ✕ December 16, 2018

PRELUDE – "HURON CAROL" – ALFRED FEDAK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity ✕ one God, the LORD of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection

To you, O God,

We lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✕ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

HYMN #242 "AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN"

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING & LIGHTING 3RD CANDLE

P: God our shepherd, gather us as lambs in your arms.

C: Forgive our sins so that we may rejoice in your coming. Amen.

Third candle is lit.

HYMN #244 "REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS" (STANZA 3)

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Stir up the wills of your faithful people, LORD God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

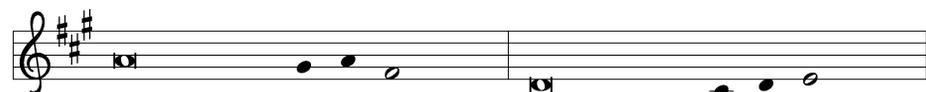
FIRST LESSON:

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

PSALMODY: ISAIAH 12:2-6

(Sung responsively)

(Tone 3)



²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

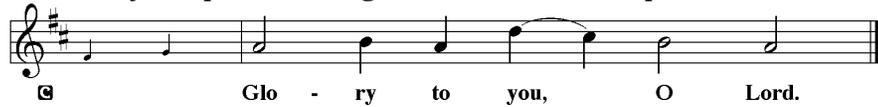
SECOND LESSON:

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

VERSE

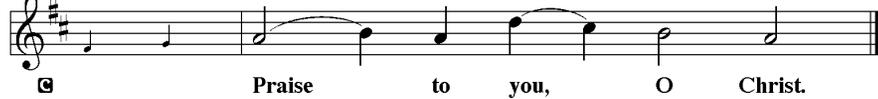


P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd Chapter.



HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 3:7-18

P: The Gospel of the LORD.



SERMON

HYMN #260 "THE KING SHALL COME"

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS *Response: "hear our prayer."*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING — "SONGS OF CHRISTMAS CHEER MEDLEY" — INSTRUMENTAL DUET BY SAVY AND SISI GIANNATTASIO

Offering is gathered for the poor and those with needs in our community and world.

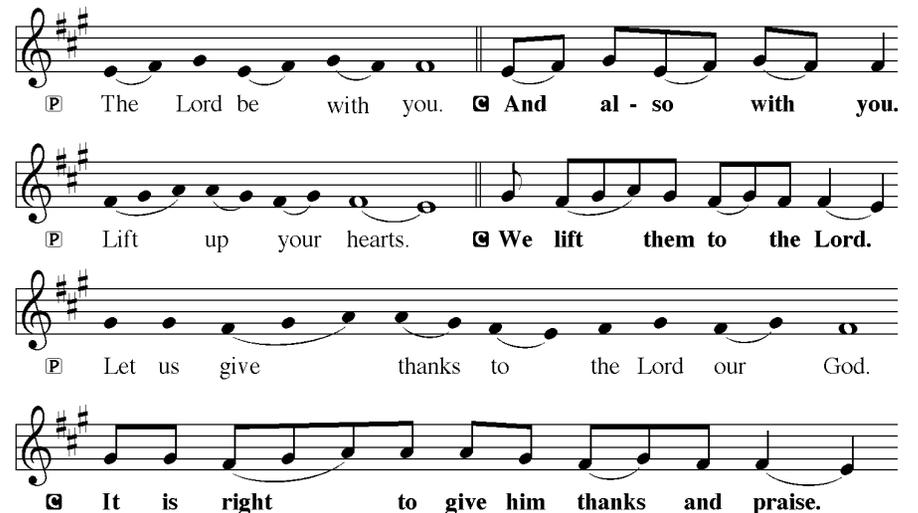
OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and LORD. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n 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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The pastor offers the prayer. The congregation joins in praying the LORD's Prayer.

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**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the LORD is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN #272 - "LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING"

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our LORD Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #270 "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE - "A JOYOUS SONG OF PRAISE" - DAVID LASKY

☩ ☩ ☩

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WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex.

“Gods purpose for St. Paul’s Lutheran “Blue” Church is to spread the Good News of Christ’s love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond.”
—Mission Statement adopted, February 2012

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS....

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20: *The prophet Zephaniah’s message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God’s salvation is at hand.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7: *Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkable upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God’s joy and peace.*

LUKE 3:7-18: *John the Baptist heralds the mighty one “who is coming.” John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Bring us home, O God.
(Zephaniah 3:14,20)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: God who comes to us from the future, make your church a holy and merciful temple, a people eager to prepare your way. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: The dawn from on high shall break upon us. *(Luke 1:78)*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: God who comes to us from the future, make your church a holy and merciful temple, a people eager to prepare your way. Amen.

PLEASE NOTE: - For those people wishing to take Holy Communion without wine, there are four cups in the center of the Communion tray with grape juice.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR....Sick/Recovering: Eileen Haddad, Joel Hammond, Ann G., Christine Robins, Hattie Smith, Maureen Swanson, Irmi, Dan, Deb

Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in “acute care” situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of those for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
GREETERS	Ron & Carol Stoudt
ASSISTING MINISTER	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	Loraine Kline
CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Roger & Edie Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Roger Knappenberger

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: **9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal.**
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.
Decorate the Church for Christmas. Please stay and help if you can.

WED.: **9 AM Quilting.**

NEXT SUN.: **9 AM Choir Rehearsal.**
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM WORSHIP – 4th Sunday in Advent.

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

DEC. 24 - 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Worship.

DEC. 24 – 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

BULLETINS...by Ron and Carol Stoudt in memory of Loved Ones.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Bill and Kathy Exner.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Roger and Edie Knappenberger

A FEW MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR BETTY LOU’S PANTRY DISTRIBUTION ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22ND. from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM. A sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

THE COAT DRIVE IS ONCE AGAIN UNDER WAY. Don't throw out your old coats. Blue Church is collecting gently used coats to help those who can use them for the upcoming winter season. The collection of coats will continue through the Christmas season. You can bring in coats for drop off in the bin in the narthex.

The Sheets to sponsor Altar Flowers, Bulletins, the Sanctuary Candle, and the monthly Communion Wine for 2019 are on the bulletin boards in the Narthex. Please make sure to sign the appropriate chart.

HELP BLUE CHURCH BY SHOPPING AT AmazonSmile. Each time you do Amazon will donate 0.5% of the amount of the purchase. Each quarter Blue Church will then receive a check. Before shopping simply select **ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH COOPERSBURG PA** as your charitable choice to receive your donation. Pick up an information sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Stewardship Snippet

Dec. 16, 2018 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Philippians 4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Joy is the theme for the third Sunday of Advent. Philippians reminds us to rejoice – find the joy – in God. Always! Though we live in a world that has many troubles, we can always find joy, in God's love. Joy is a way of life for steward/disciples.

Please consider the Simply Giving Program in your stewardship giving to the Church. The program offers a secure electronic payment solution that allows you to make regular offerings. Sign up is easy. Simply fill out a form located in the narthex and return it to the church office. Any questions, contact Kathy Exner.

PLEASE NOTE – The last day to receive credit for your 2018 contribution is December 30. Any offerings received after that date will be credited to 2019. Thank you for your cooperation.

BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>NOV. .</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
RECEIPTS	\$ 6,599.12	\$ 76,302.80
EXPENSES	\$19,344.83	\$153,148.12
<u>(DEFICIT)</u>	(<u>\$12,745.71</u>)	(<u>\$ 76,845.32</u>)

ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES

	\$4,500.00	\$49,500.00
ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND		\$ 8,107.68

WE REMEMBER THIS WEEK...

DECEMBER 20 – KATHARINA VON BORA LUTHER, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, DIED 1552

Born to an impoverished nobleman, when Katharina (Katie) was five her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she proved herself a gifted household manager and became a trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her “my lord Katie”
