

Christ Lutheran Church
115 Church Street, Duncannon, PA 17020
717.834.3140
Pastor Jennifer Toburen
Organist – Joe Abate
www.clcduncannon.org

*Here is the
bridegroom!
Come out
to meet him*

MATTHEW 25:6



Sunday, November 12, 2023
The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Announcements

Congregation please stand

OPENING/CALL TO WORSHIP

P: God of love and justice,
we gather together to worship you:

**C: to offer our thanks and praise;
to proclaim your goodness and mercy.**

P: Meet us here.
Breathe your Word into our souls;

C: Write your covenant of love upon our hearts.

P: Teach us faithfulness and compassion.

**C: By your Spirit, may our lives reflect
your love and justice to the world.**

PREPARING

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be God,
 the one who forms us,
 † Jesus who bears the cross,
 the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

P Let us come before the throne of God, the mercy seat,
 with all of our humanity, open to the peace of promised forgiveness.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.
Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
 and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
 Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
 by Jesus you are welcome,
 in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
 Let us live in the promises prepared for us
 from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

Come, We That Love the Lord
We're Marching to Zion



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac-cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
 heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
 heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
 Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

Kyrie

Setting 8

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the



2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the



3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for



4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for



hun-gry and the poor; that



friends and fam-i-ly; for



wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,



we may live out . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,

life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 70



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- ¹Be pleased, O God, to de-^liver me;
O LORD, make ^lhaste to help me.
- ²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame ^land confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and ^lbe disgraced.**
- ³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat ^lover me
turn back because ^lof their shame.
- ⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be ^lglad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great ^lis the LORD!”**
- ⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick-^lly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, ^ldo not tarry.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Congregation please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Setting 8

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’

¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

ELW 436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Apostles Creed

**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.**

Sign of Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

A brief silence.

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. We pray for all who suffer violence on dangerous streets and war torn places; keep them from harm's way. Bless us with your vision of peace, that all may flourish as one family under God with justice and freedom for all. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day. Among those known to us, we pray for Shirley, Allan, Pat, Audrey, Sarah Jane, Roger, Charlotte, Joanne, Jack, Cathy, Millie, Jerry, Roxy, Karen, Joe, Ardenna, Darlene, Nancy, Lillian, Ron, Bonnie, Judy and Glenn.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Stewardship Snippet

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” – Amos 5:24

Through the prophet Amos, God condemns hollow displays of religiosity. What God desires is action – justice and righteousness – ever-flowing from the hearts of those who love the Lord. How can you work for justice in your community.

Lector - We will now worship God with our offering.

Offertory

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



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



bless-ing. 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 dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



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

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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MEAL

P Let us pray,

C 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 your 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.

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Setting 8



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you,
 God, our loving Creator.

In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth
 and formed humanity in your own image.
 You breathed into us your own breath of love
 and gave us hearts and hands and voices
 to live your loving purpose in the world.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus,
 born into a human family,
 raised in a hometown,
 who gathered around himself a community formed by your love,
 and yearned to gather all people under the loving wings of a mother hen.

Sitting at dinner with friends
 and knowing one among them would break the bonds of love,
 our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;
 broke it; and gave it to his disciples saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Spirit upon this meal,
 the body and blood of Jesus,
 that we overflow with your selfless love.
 Turn us to face our neighbors,
 that by us and through us your love may be known in the world.

We cry out:
Come, Holy Spirit.

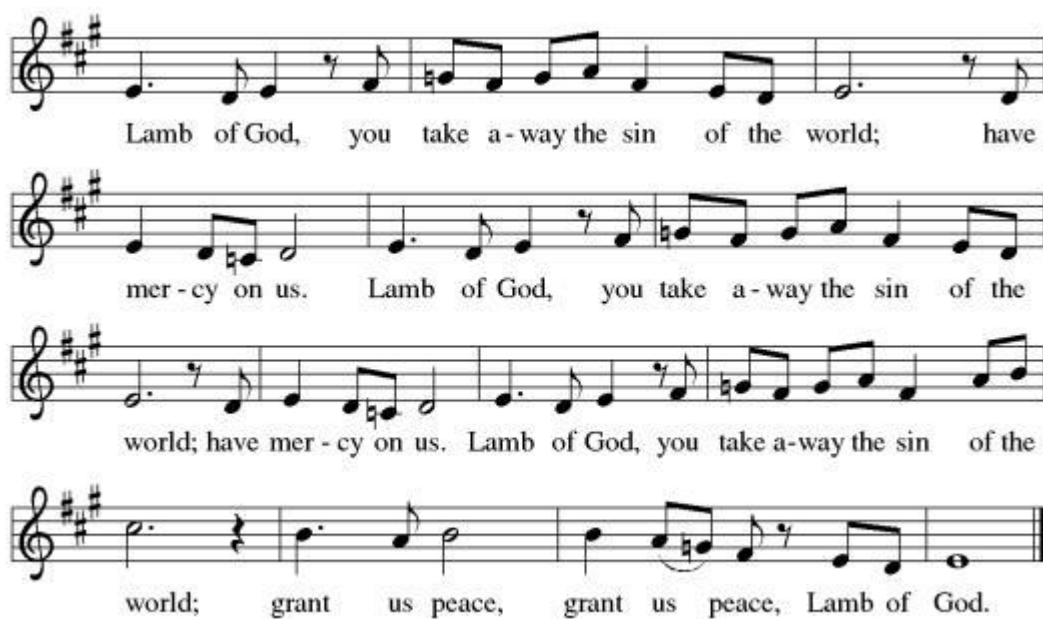
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

P So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who are wandering still.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Amen.

*Please be seated***Lamb of God****Setting 8**


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

Holy Communion

Prepackaged communion is available for those who wish to remain in the pews.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 723, 725

Congregation please stand

Christ Lutheran Church

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
 C **Amen.**



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
 2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
 till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
 till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 where Christ, the bless-ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Post Communion Prayer

P Lord Jesus,
 in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
 Sustain us on the journey,
 strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
 and give us glad and generous hearts
 as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

SENDING

Charge

P Siblings in Christ,
Be swift to listen,
Make haste to be kind.
Let justice roll down like waters
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Blessing

P May God, who creates, redeems and sustains,
Keep you fervent in faith, cheerful in hope,
Brimming in justice, and overflowing in love.
And the blessing of God , Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Dismissal

P Beloved of God,
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

ELW 717

Let Justice Flow like Streams

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system contains three lines of lyrics. The second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776
 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

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P We at Christ Lutheran Church are
C God's called, Loved Children who serve.
P Go in Peace. The living Word dwells in you.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Prayer Concerns

Roger & Sara Jane Hickoff, Shirley Hoffman, Pat Reich, Elyse Brown, Allan Imler, Joanne Speis, Audrey Hite, Pat Dallago, Sylvia Webb & the Indian Mobile Mission, Join Hands, Brian Proctor, Don Reisinger, Joanne Reisinger, Harold (Mick) & Jackie Maguire, Randy Huss, Ray Kintzel, Jack Smith, Eunice Smith, Cathy Cavanaugh, Charlotte Dyer, Millie Bell, Roger Eickhoff, Donna Farver, Rachelle Gilcrease, Mary Jane Beardsley, Alicia Beardsley, Jerry Bell, Robert Valentine, Roxy Huss, Edith George, Karen Ersoz, Sidney Irvin, Joe Kistler, Ardenna Kauffman, Carol Darr, John Ersoz, Jr, Darlene Johnson, Wilma Clayton Weaver, Nancy Carpenter, Ron Hoffman, Lillian Kistler, Dale Meyer, Judy Swartz, Bonnie Achenbach, Larry Brajkovitch, Glenn Shumaker.

The Altar Flowers are Presented to the Glory of God
By Ann Fleisher
In Loving Memory of Christopher Imler.

Worship Assistants

Lector/Prayers – Sue Masser
Next Sunday – Cindy Brookhart

Wine – Beverly Reifsnyder
Next Sunday – Becky Yohe

Grape Juice – Ann Fleisher
Next Sunday – Bill Brookhart

Altar Guild – Ann Fleisher
Next Sunday – Brianne Chubb

Counters – Terry Kuhn, Becky Meisel
Next Sunday – Jean Tota, Connie Kenee

Ushers – Team 2
Ernie Meisel, Bill Brookhart, Joe Kistler

SUNDAY November 12th, 2023

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Study – 8:30am.

Worship service – 10:00 am – Holy Communion

Annual Congregational Meeting following the service

MONDAY, November 13th, 2023

Community Outreach Committee Meeting – 7pm- Zoom

TUESDAY, November 14th, 2023

Bible Study – 1:00pm – Zoom

WEDNESDAY, November 15th, 2023

THURSDAY, November 16th, 2023

FRIDAY, November 17th, 2023

SATURDAY, November 18th, 2023

SUNDAY, November 19th, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Bible Study

Worship service – 10:00 am - Holy Communion

Harvest Home

Anniversary – Ernie & Becky Meisel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting - The annual Congregational Meeting will be held today following the worship service. A quorum is needed to conduct church business. This meeting is extremely important to the life of this congregation. Each person's attendance and input is valuable. Please plan to stay.

Noisy Offering Reminder - Next week is Noisy Offering Sunday.

Pumpkin Rolls – Stephanie Hofer will be making pumpkin rolls on Saturday, November 18th. The cost is \$10 each. Orders are due November 15th. You may pick up on Sunday, November 18th following the worship service. **There is an order form on the bulletin board.** You may also contact Stephanie at 717-315-5720. Proceeds will go to the CLC general fund. The congregation may donate any of the following ingredients in order to offset the cost: Eggs, canned pumpkin(not the pie filling), vanilla, cream cheese, powdered sugar, sugar, flour, real butter, saran wrap, tape.

Thanksgiving Baskets – Please help by donating a turkey if you can. WEIS Markets starting 10/15 through 11/23, earn 400 points for a free turkey. GIANT starts 11/1 to 11/23, earn 400 points for a free turkey. Limit: 1 per household. Thank you for your support. Social Ministry Committee.

Harvest Home – November 19 - We will be collecting the following food items for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets:

Boxes of stuffing mix	Instant mashed potatoes
Boxes of scalloped potatoes	Cranberry sauce
Applesauce	Turkey gravy
Cake mix	Cans of frosting
Crushed pineapple	Canned green beans & corn
Small bottles of vegetable oil	

Calendars for Transitions Healthcare (formerly Kinkora) – Bev Reifsnnyder is again collecting calendars for Transitions Healthcare of Allen Cove, formerly Kinkora Home.

The calendars will be used by the residents there. If you would like to donate any calendars, you may give them to Bev or place them on the large table in the large Sunday School room. Calendars will be collected through the end of December.

Deadline for Toys for Tots – The deadline to bring in a gift for Toys for Tots is December 3.

November Events/Meetings

November 12 – Annual congregational meeting following the worship service

November 12 – St. Barnabas Murder Mystery & Silent Auction.

November 13 – Community Outreach Committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom.

November 19 – Harvest Home

November 21 – Community Thanksgiving Service – 7pm – Presbyterian Church.

November 28 – Community Outreach Committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom.

November 29 – CLC Book Club – 7pm – Zoom.

November 30 – BibleQuest 365 – 7pm – Zoom.

December Events/Meetings

December 3 – Hanging of the Greens & Lunch– following the worship service.

Christmas Tree Lighting @ Clark’s Ferry Tavern. 2-5:00pm.

December 4 – Finance Committee meeting – Zoom.

December 6 - First Advent midweek service – 7pm.

December 10 – Family Advent Time following the worship service.

December 13 – Midweek Advent service – 7pm.

December 14 – Church Council meeting – 6:30pm.

December 17 – Congregational Christmas Party – following the worship service.

December 20 – Midweek Advent service – 7pm

Christmas Caroling following the service.

December 21 – Longest Night Service – 7pm.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 & 7:30pm.

December 31 – Service of Lessons & Carols.

Advent Breakfast – An Advent Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at 9:30am at Otterbein UM Church. The West Side Singers will provide special music.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 12, 2023

LECTIONARY 32

Enough and Never Enough

Both the harsh words of the prophet Amos and the parable of the bridesmaids are scenes of anger—not pointless, misdirected frustration, but a prophetic call for change, a passionate plea that we redirect our focus. Sometimes, Amos says, anger is a result of not being heard. And sometimes, Jesus says, anger comes from fear of not being enough, not having enough, not doing enough. But being a child of God comes as a gift from God, who has poured out God’s justice and righteousness on us in abundance so that we may care about those who are lacking.

What good is worship, Amos asks, if it doesn’t change your lives—or that of your neighbors? What good is worship if it does not spur us to make justice happen for our siblings? The anger we encounter in Amos is of the righteous kind, the kind intended to call us to action.

In contrast, the anger expressed in the parable of the bridesmaids is that born of fear. Who ever said that the bridegroom would not admit maidens who ran out of oil? Both the bridesmaids described as wise and those described as foolish are angry because of fear of missing out. Jesus is the light of the world, and so are you, he says (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14). But when your light grows dim and tired, exhausted and weary, and you cannot see the road ahead, his light will guide the way.

How different this parable might be if the bridesmaids with oil had shared their oil. *If you are not ready*, they might have said, *let us show you how to be prepared*. What good is the kingdom of heaven if we have not lived our lives in such a way as to light the pathway for others? What good is worship if we leave the building unmoved by the cries for justice all around us?

