

Worshipping

OUR
LONG-AWAITED
SAVIOR!



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MOUND ADVENT 2018

The future coming of Christ, in which he will take on glory and majesty is central to our Gospel readings during Advent. Following the tradition of the early medieval church, each of these gospel readings is complemented by readings from the Old Testament. These Advent texts come from Jeremiah, Malachi, Zephaniah and Micah. In popular culture, prophets are equated to fortune-tellers or 'seers', looking to the future to predict some upcoming event. Our readings underscore this sentiment, yet while prophets are called to look ahead, they also speak to us now, calling us to rejoice and be glad, for God is fulfilling his promise of being in the midst of his people, where love and peace will reign.

An Advent Processional by Donald Pearson - Each Sunday in Advent, we will begin worship with this stunning, newly-composed arrangement which uses the ancient words "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" Drums, tambourine, dancers, bells and piano draw us into the lighting of the Advent Candles and help us prepare for the coming of the Christ.

December 2 - ADVENT I - In worship we beckon to the Christ with hymns like the Native American carol "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" and the early American hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus." Evergreen trees adorn the chancel.

At 9:00 am, the Chancel Choir proclaims the coming of Christ with Gustav Holst's stirring "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence."
At 10:45 am, we will sing the great refrain, "Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel."

December 9 - ADVENT II, FESTIVAL OF ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS - Our preparation for the Christ is brought before us in a series of prophetic readings from the Old Testament, culminating in the Gospel of Luke when the Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High. All choirs of St. John's (Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Youth Choir & Cherub Choir) will illuminate the scripture with Advent carols and songs. The congregation will also sing carol responses to the readings. Lights brighten the evergreen trees.

Both 9:00 and 10:45 worship services will use the Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols.

December 16 - ADVENT III - As we continue our journey to prepare for Christ, we work on the actual task of preparation. Hymns: "Prepare the Royal Highway" and "O Lord, How Shall I Greet Thee" help us prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Christ! Chrismons adorn the evergreens.

At 9:00 am, the Bell Choir rings the festive carol, "Ding Dong Merrily on High" by Cynthia Dobrinski and the Chancel Choir will sing Mark Sirett's beautiful setting of "Thou Shalt Know Him when He Comes."

At 10:45 am, the centerpiece of worship is the Faith Creek Christmas Program, "Catch the Christmas Spirit!"

December 23 - ADVENT IV - As our Advent journey nears its end, we hear and sing carols that bring us very close to Christ's arrival. Joy to the World, the Christ is come! Poinsettias fill the chancel.

Both the 9:00 and 10:45 am services will have special music to bring us very close to the coming of Christ.

December 24 - THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (3:30 PM, 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM) - We light the Christ Candle and welcome the birth of the long-prophesied savior! Candlelight worship, Holy Communion, Christmas carols, heavenly choirs, festive bells and beautiful harp music adorn the services that welcome Christ!

3:30 worship is led by St. John's Youth Choir, St. John's Cherub Choir and harpist Jim Buxton.

5:00 worship is led by harpist Jim Buxton.

10:00 worship is led by the Chancel Choir and St. John's Bell Choir.

Prelude music begins
20-minutes prior to worship
featuring harp, organ, bells
and a caroling quartet
at various services.