Newark Lutheran Church
December 17th 2025
Advent Service

Prelude & Greeting

Song: "While By My Sheep"

While by the sheep we watched at night,
glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain:
How great our joy!
Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,
in Bethlehem a child today. **(Refrain)**

There shall the child lie in a stall,
this child who shall redeem us all. **(Refrain)**

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
that ever joy our hearts shall fill. **(Refrain)**

Hymn 18: "Joy To The World"

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.

Joy to the world!
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.

No more let sin and sorrow 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.

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.

Advent Devotions

Song~ Hymn #197: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Hail Thee as the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Bloss'ming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother—
All who live in love are Thine:
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Father-love is reigning o'er us,
Brother-love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music lifts us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 16:6-11

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.
You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Song: "The Wonder of It All"

There's the wonder of sunset at evening
The wonder as sunrise I see
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God loves me

Chorus
O the wonder of it all the wonder of it all
Just to think that God loves me
O the wonder of it all the wonder of it all
Just to think that God loves me

There's the wonder of springtime and harvest
The sky the stars the sun
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is a wonder that's only begun

There's the wonder of God's revelation
The Word Who dwelt amongst men;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is that Jesus is coming again.

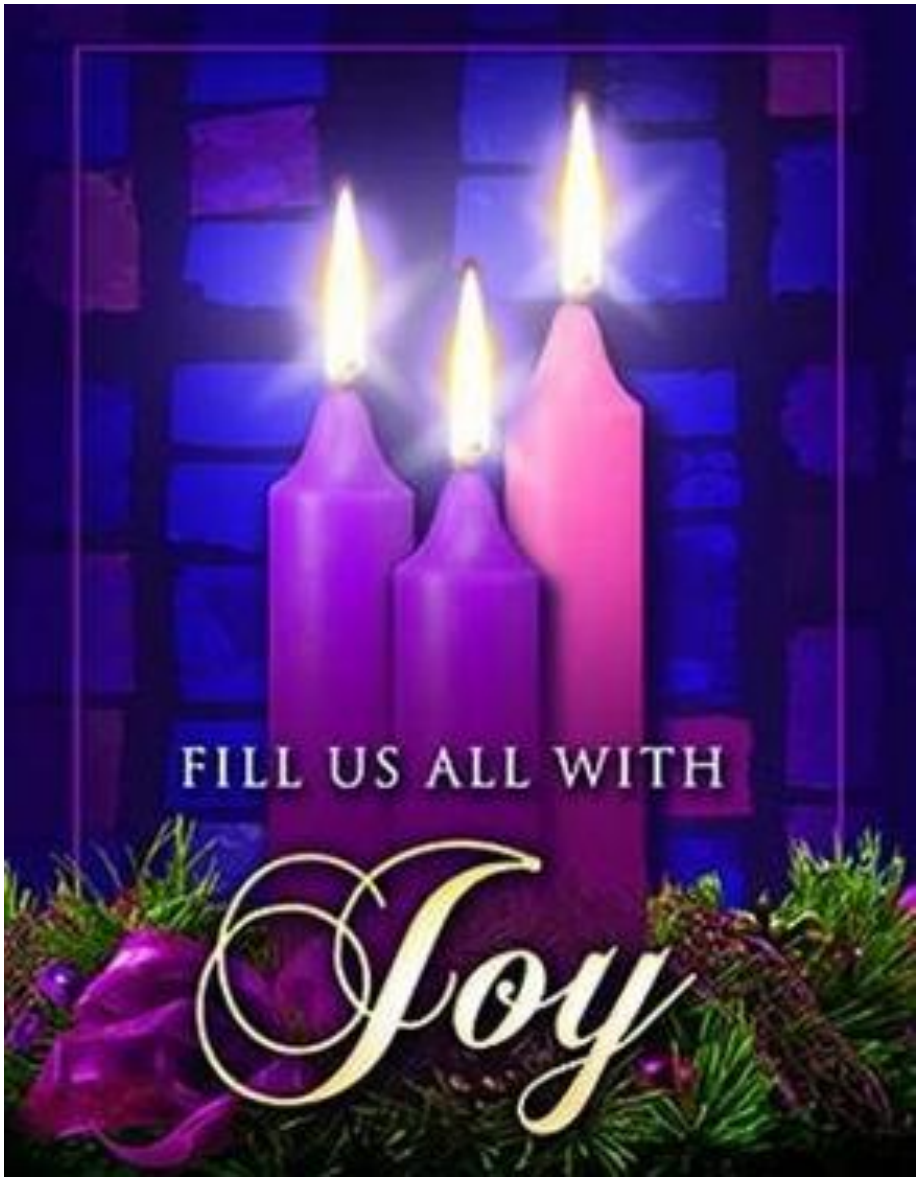
Message: The Wonder of Joy

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Song: "Ring the Bells"

Ring the bells ring the bells
Let the whole world know
Christ was born in Bethlehem
Many years ago
Born to die that man might live
Came to earth new life to give
Born of Mary born so low
Many years ago
God the Father gave His Son
Gave His own beloved One
To this wicked sinful earth

To bring mankind His love new birth
Ring the bells ring the bells
Let the whole world know
Christ the Savior lives today
As He did so long ago