

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A warm welcome on this third Sunday of Advent. May the joy of Christ's coming lift the hearts of all of us as we worship God and share our love with one another.
Joy! Joy! Joy!

CALL TO WORSHIP

PASTOR: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:

CONGREGATION: *They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*

PASTOR: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned:

CONGREGATION: *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

PASTOR: Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

CONGREGATION: *And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

PASTOR: Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

PASTOR AND CONGREGATION: *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.* Isaiah 9:2; 40: 1-5, 9; 60:1



Suggested Daily Scripture Reading

| | <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| OT | Jonah 1:1-4-11 | Micah 1:1-4:13 | Micah 5:1-7:20 | Nahum 1:1-3:19 |
| NT | Revelation 5:1-14 | Revelation 6:1-17 | Revelation 7:1-17 | Revelation 8:1-13 |
| PSA | Psalms 133:1-3 | Psalms 134:1-3 | Psalms 135:1-21 | Psalms 136:1-26 |
| PROV | Proverbs 14 | Proverbs 15 | Proverbs 16 | Proverbs 17 |
| | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> | |
| | Habakkuk 1:1-3:19 | Zephaniah 1:1-3:20 | Haggai 1:1-2:23 | |
| | Revelation 9:1-21 | Revelation 10:1-11 | Revelation 11:1-19 | |
| | Psalms 137:1-9 | Psalms 138:1-8 | Psalms 139:1-24 | |
| | Proverbs 18 | Proverbs 19 | Proverbs 20 | |

O God, help us to have quiet and joyful spirits as we worship you, our loving Creator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Community Christmas Chorus will present their Christmas program, a holiday gift to the community, at 4:00 this afternoon at the Cobleskill Zion Lutheran Church.
- Christmas Choir Practice this evening.
- **December 17 - Wednesday** - Meet at the church at 6:00 PM for caroling. There will be a time of fellowship and refreshments afterwards in the parsonage basement
- **December 20-Saturday - 10 AM** Christmas program practice
- **December 21 - Morning Service** -Sunday School Christmas Pageant
7:00 PM - Christmas Musical
- **December 24 - Christmas Eve** - No service
- **December 25 - Christmas** - 7:00 PM - Candlelight Service
- **December 31** - New Year’s Eve Fellowship (8 PM) and Watch Night Service (10 PM). The Rev. Don Myers will be speaking.
- *The Christmas card mail sorter is up for “special delivery”. We suggest that the money you save on postage be donated to missions or another worthy project.*



PRAYER REQUESTS

- This week remember to pray for our sister church in **Marcy**. John Musser, Sr. is the pastor.
- Pray for **comfort** and healing for Lois Schenck’s family members who are mourning the death Friday evening of her sister, Violet Hollingsworth.
- Recent requests for physical needs -
 - **Keith Posson, Charlotte** (Neil Adams’ cousin), **Roger Ellers** (cancer, broken leg), **Alberta Heckman, Cathy Posson, Jean Ford,**
- Recent requests from our Cobleskill church: **Laverne, Helen.**
- Continue to pray for Lyndsay France, Seth and Isaac Owens
- The village of **Middleburgh**, that we will reach people with hungry hearts and have fruitful results in our ministry.
- Our service personnel, especially **Wesley Lum, Jacob Eggleston , Donnie Gray, Anthony & Joyce Willey, Ryan Mills, and Charles Laraway.**
- Our country, and our President and government leaders, that they may make Godly choices.
- Please let us know of anyone who is ill, facing a time of hospitalization, or would like a home visit.

SERVICES — SUNDAY: Sunday School 10:00 AM, Morning Worship 11:00 AM, Cobleskill 4:00 PM, Evening 7:00 PM — WEDNESDAY: Midweek Service 7:00 PM — FRIDAY: Women’s Meeting 10:00 AM

The carol "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" was the most popular of the early carols, sung for centuries before being published in Britain in 1833. The author is unknown. It is not addressed to "merry gentlemen." The words of the song had different meanings in the time of its writing than in contemporary use; *rest* meant "keep," while *merry* meant "mighty" or "strong" (i.e., Merrie Old England meant *Mighty* Old England, Robin Hood's merry men were *mighty* men) Thus, the title in modern English means "May God keep you gentlemen strong, or mighty." The message of the song is God's news of comfort and joy to keep us strong in spite of conditions in this world that might dismay us.

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

*In Bethlehem, in Israel,
This blessèd Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessèd morn
The which His mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

*From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

*"Fear not then," said the Angel,
"Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure Virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

*The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoic-éd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

*Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.*
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

* modern-efface