

Before Isaiah says, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, he has delivered a word from God; a word that among other things announced:

- ◆ Liberty to the captives;
- ◆ Comfort for all who mourn;
- ◆ Good news to the oppressed;
- ◆ Release to prisoners;
- ◆ Strength for the brokenhearted; and
- ◆ Judgement on all who perpetuate injustice, violence, and oppression.

The salvation that Isaiah proclaims is not an individual salvation—though individuals will certainly participate in and benefit from it. The salvation that Isaiah proclaims is one that will upend the social order. God's salvation will recreate the world and the human community based on God's narrative of the world, not the false stories we have told ourselves about who we are and what our purpose for living is.

In God's story, all persons are created in God's image, and are therefore of ultimate worth—not just some. All people participate in caring for God's creation for the benefit of all—not just some. In God's story, no one is left out, left behind, or devalued, but all are loved and valued.

After Mary utters the first words of her song of praise to God, thanking God for choosing to use her (and note here that God chose to use a poor, single woman from a despised part of Judah to be the means through which God enters the world in Jesus and not a princess, or a person of high estate), she turns the rest of her song toward God. In the child to be born,

Mary understands the God will act to:

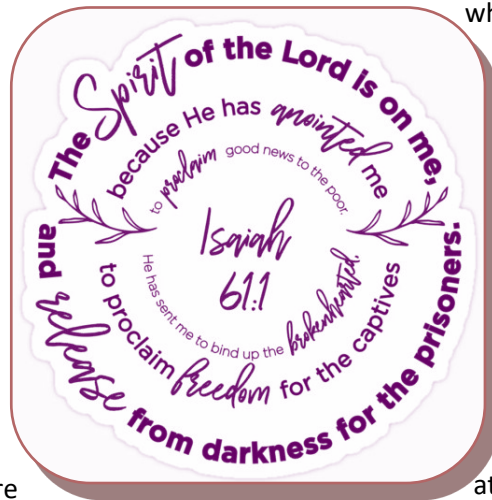
- ◇ Scatter the proud (or confuse the thoughts of the proud, thus humbling them);
- ◇ Bring down the powerful from their thrones;
- ◇ Fill the hungry, while sending the rich away (echoes of parable of the Last Judgment in Matthew 25 and the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16);
- ◇ Lift up the lowly; and
- ◇ Remember the promise made to Abraham (a promise to create a people who would be a blessing to the whole world).

Elizabeth, Mary, Zechariah, and John were all given the opportunity to play a role in helping God to renew the face of the earth, to renew the nature of the human community. And they sang for joy because of it.

They sang for joy, not simply because God had chosen them, but because God was at work to rewrite the story the

world into a new story of justice and peace, love and harmony. They were filled joy, because God had chosen them to play their part in bringing about God's salvation for and within this world.

As Jesus' body, as God's people in this world, we have been filled with the Spirit of God, and perhaps even the spirit of Elijah, to announce and to demonstrate the story of God's faithful intent to bring into being God's purpose when God created this world. We have been given a part in proclaiming God's story in a world of broken stories. That, like theirs, is our joy!



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CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Jim Holladay
Senior Pastor

Rev. Derek Harris
Associate Pastor:
Music

Dr. Laurice Rogers
Associate Pastor:
Community Care

Jiyoung Kim
Administrative
Secretary

Chris E. Palmer
Plant Manager

The Carillon

Week of December 17, 2023



Jim's Jottings

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God; . . .*

—Isaiah 61:10a NRSV

Reading those words from Isaiah, I was immediately drawn to the words of Mary spoken to her cousin Elizabeth, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant." [Luke 1:46 NRSV]

Mary spoke those words after Elizabeth had greeted her with these words: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy." [Luke 1:42-44 NRSV]

The child that leaped in Elizabeth's womb was no ordinary child. The angel that appeared to Elizabeth's husband Zechariah proclaimed that John would be filled with the Holy Spirit and "with the spirit and power of Elijah, " he will go before the Messiah " . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

When John was born, Zechariah sings that his son will announce the coming of one who will " . . . give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet in the way of peace." [Luke 1:79 NRSV]

The words of Mary, Elizabeth, and Zechariah place Jesus' advent into this world squarely in the prophetic hope of Israel; a hope that longs not for the restoration of a powerful geo-political entity, but a hope that looks forward to the deliverance of the oppressed from the hands of the powerful and the establishing of peace and well-being within the world.

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Dec 17

Camera– Errol Morgan

Sound– Ray Powell

Dec 24

Camera– Addie Brownell

Sound– Lindsey Harris



SCRIPTURE READERS

Dec 17

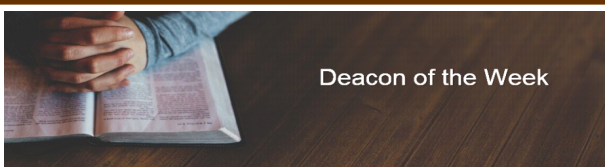
Jane Hasty

Dec 24

Jack Rogers

Dec 31

Vera Ruwe



Deacon of the Week

Dora Vanderhoof

241-9517 (h) 693-2286 (c)

CHRISTMAS BASKET OPTIONS



For a contribution of \$25, you can provide a Thanksgiving and/or Christmas Dinner for a family of four. If you would like to help families in West Louisville this year, you can make your contribution of \$25 or more through the church. Simply mark on your check or envelope that the money is to go to "BFC Baskets."

DECEMBER

Monday, December 18

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, December 19

9:30 a.m. - Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

Wednesday, December 20

5:30 p.m.– Church Family Christmas Dinner and Party

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m.– Service of Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Office Closed

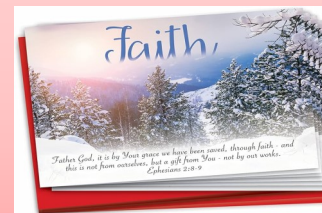
Tuesday, December 26

Office Closed

1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

Wednesday, December 27

Office Closed



Christmas Card Delivery

Collection of cards for church people will begin December 10. Cards can be dropped in Room #214. Volunteers will sort and deliver the cards. These cards are for in-church delivery only.



Church Family Christmas Dinner & Party

Wednesday, December 20

5:30 p.m.

Reservations Needed

~ ~ ~

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 24

7:00 p.m.



SUNDAY

10:45 a.m.

Morning Worship on Facebook®

YouTube®,

& lyndonbaptist.org



Anniversaries

December 23: John & Nancy Polhill

December 29: Patricia & Fernandez Edwards



FANNIE KATHERINE AGEE

September 19, 1918—December 13, 2023

Visitation

10:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
Arch L. Heady Westport

Service

12:30 p.m.
Arch L. Heady Westport Chapel

Burial

Grove Hill Cemetery, Shelbyville

ALTON GENE MORRIS

July 26, 1926—December 11, 2023

Service

11:00 a.m.
Louisville Memorial Gardens West Chapel



Victor Isaac - +17825033095
Angel - +17825033096
Address- 140 Taylor Street Sydney
Nova Scotia B1N2W4 Canada

Special
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
AT THE CONCLUSION OF MORNING
WORSHIP

This coming Sunday we will have a brief Called Congregational Meeting to vote on our 2024 Financial Ministry Plan (a.k.a. budget). The vote will be without discussion.



December 20

- Ham
- Sweet Potato Casserole
- Green Beans
- Baby Carrots
- Salad
- Cranberry Sauce

Please make or change your reservation by
NOON on MONDAY
so we can give the caterer an accurate count.

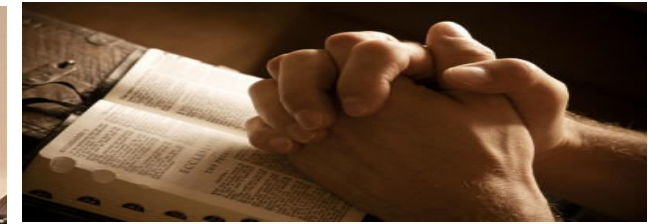
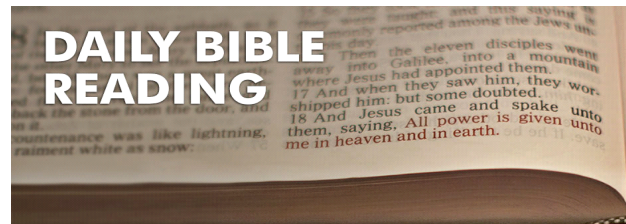
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PRAYER GUIDE

December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday – Psalm 125; I Kings 18:1 – 8;
Ephesians 6:10 – 17

Tuesday – Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9 – 22;
Acts 3:17 – 4:4

Wednesday – Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16 – 4:4;
Mark 9:9 – 13

Thursday – Psalm 89:1 – 4, 19 – 26; 2 Samuel
6:1 1- 11; Hebrews 1:1 – 4

Friday – Psalm 89:1 – 4, 19 – 26; 2 Samuel
6:12 – 19; Hebrews 1:5 – 14

Saturday – Psalm 89:1 – 4, 19 – 26; Judges
13:2 – 24; John 7:40 – 52

Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Psalm 89:1 – 4, 19 – 26; 2 Samuel
7:1 – 11, 16; Romans 16:25 – 27;
Luke 1:26 – 38

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Central African Republic

Christians in the Central African Republic, often thought of as a predominantly Christian country, suffer brutal attacks from both militant Islamic rebels and opposing militia groups that identify as Christian in the country's ongoing civil war.

Pray for Christians living in camps after fleeing violence in their villages.

Pray that physical needs will be met.

Praise God that worship continues on a regular basis in the camps.

Pray for an end to the violent conflicts in the nation.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Fannie Agee

2003 Red Leaf Drive, 40242

Gwen Boyce

5202 Eagle Peak Way, 40241

Myshael Brownell

4228 Bayberry Drive, 40216

Marvin Conn

1713 Millgate Road, 40223

Helen Contis

512 Cricket Court, Orange Park FL 32073

Dickie Cox

Forest Springs Care Center, Room 401
4120 Wooded Acre Lane, 40245

Ken Dorton

136 Dorton Circle, Castlewood, VA 24224

Donna Douglas

4003 Pacelli Place, 40245

Family of Virginia Ford

Glen Ridge Health Campus, Room 513
6415 Calm River Way, 40299

Liz Hornback

8484 Grand Trevi Drive, 40228

Gloria Landgrave

3112 Graystone Manor Parkway, 40241

Family of Gene Morris

3000 Curran Road, 40205

Doris Omerod

1706 Roosevelt Avenue, 40242

Noemi Parroco

Vitality, Room 112
4501 Springdale Road, 40241

Family of Jan Raper

326 Monohan Drive, 40207

Libby Reynolds

9808 Neuquay Circle, 40241

Ann Sturdevant

3604 Breeland Avenue, 40241

Maria Sturdevant

7623 Celebration Way, Crestwood, KY 40014

Barbara Whitley

11710 Robin Lynn Lane, 40243

Pam Wright

3907 Yardley Court, #102, 40299

Prayer for Family and Friends

Evelyn Adiputra

Friend of Ruth Holladay

Rylan Applegate

Grandson of Steve and Ann
Sturdevant

Liz Aulino

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Kyp Bellinger

Family of Jim and Ruth
Holladay

John Biesel

Father of Lindsay Harris

David Brinkley

Nephew of Jane Hasty

Brian Bullock

Friend of Barbara Whitley

Paul Christiansen

Family of Madge Garwood and
Merri McDonald

Billy Compton

Son in Law of Dickie Cox

Alex Delano

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Erin Ford

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Randall Ford

Family of Marty Hamilton

Ronald Furguson

Father of Addie Brownell

Lisa Gilmore

Friend of Derek Harris

Nelson Gruppe

Cousin of Diana Flemister

Ray Hicks

Son of Gary and Victoria Hicks

Family of Ben Hilbert

Friend of Ruth Holladay

Teresa Holsclaw

Cousin of Connie Black

Melvin Horne

Brother of Raeburn Horne

Emily Janowik and Family

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Deb Jennings and Jordan Hahn

Family of Sandy Hahn

Sara Beth Lowe

Friend of Derek and Lindsey
Harris

Forrest Morehead

Brother-in-Law of Sharon Wood

Donna Prim

Friend of Gary and Victoria
Hicks

Sean Ruwe

Son of Vera Ruwe

Jenny Sidert

Friend of Connie Black

Gladys Smith

Family of Addie Brownell

Mark and Amy Snyder

Family of Sandy Hoover

Sean Stearman

Grandson of Jan Raper

Gloria Waltemyer

Aunt of Shaunna Hoover Gragg

John Taylor Webb

Family of Becki Sikes

Jessica Weisenfels

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Maggie Westwood

Friend of Lindsey Harris