

Announcements continued

5. We are going to start a confirmation class in February 2023. And the class will be for 12 weeks. If your kids are interested in the class, please get in touch with the church office.
6. Join us for refreshments following worship.

Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle: Hope **“Like a Child” TFWS#2092 verse 1**

Call to Worship

L: The days are shorter and darkness comes early to our lives.

P: Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.

L: Come, seek the Lord. Place your hope in God's mercy and love.

P: Lord, we seek your presence among us.

L: Look closely! God is making us ready.

P: Brighten our Spirits this day and help us to receive your Good News. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious name. AMEN.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Opening Hymn **UMH#196**
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Passing the Peace of Christ

Children's Time

Scriptures

Larry Evans

Malachi 4:5-6 (NIV)

“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

Luke 1:5-17 (NIV)

In the time of Herod King of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message
“God Had Heard Your Prayers”
Pastor Peter Choi

Hymn “Angels We Have Heard on High” UMH#238

Joys and Concerns

Prayer List: Marge Madsen, Larry Anderson,
Lori Conyer’s Father, and Merlin Beahm.

Happy Birthday to Marilyn Rasmussen, Diana Hammer,
Mike Boudreau, and Jensen Rowse.

Pastoral Prayer—Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Music

“Doxology “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Offertory Prayer

Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship, and our material resources, wherever they are needed. Amen.

Closing Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH#240

Benediction

Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is time to rejoice. The Lord is near! We are called to go forth from this place in the full assurance of One who promises peace, strength and salvation. You have heard the Good News. Now go forth and allow this news to shine for all that you say, all that you do, and all that you are. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sending Forth

Postlude

Glen Haselbarth

United Methodist Church
Minden, Nebraska



Prelude

Glen Haselbarth

Welcome and Announcements

1. Today, the advent season begins. It is an exceptional time of year because today is the first day of a new church calendar and begins a four-week period of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Today, Pastor Peter starts a sermon series, “Prepare the Way for the Lord.” It will be continued for four weeks.” For this season, we will navigate the meaning of Jesus’ birth.
2. During worship on December 18, we are going to have a Christmas program. If you and your family are interested in participating in the program, please get in touch with the church office or Pastor Peter. We will also take a church group picture on December 18.
3. I encourage you to send a commitment card if you have yet returned it. Your commitment makes it possible for us to budget, plan, and provide appropriate resources for our ministries.
4. The Bible study, *Threading the Bible: New Testament*, will begin in January 2023. If you want to take the class, please contact the church office.