Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!
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Rooted in Faith * Growing in Spirit * Reaching Out to Those in Need

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8:30 am Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2017

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

PRELUDE "Advent Improvisations" Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Candle of Peace Schutter Family

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other. (Psalm 85:8-10)

L: Can you hear it?
C: What is it?
L: God's Word is coming.
C: We're listening. We're eager to hear.
L: A voice cries out and declares the Promise of Peace.
C: We stand in awe.

L: Things are going to even out in the world.
C: All people will embrace each other.
L: Today we light the candle of Peace.
All: Our peace comes from God.

GATHERING HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW #264

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand)*
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.
Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of all time,
we confess that we have not prepared
for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light
and to seek the things that will endure
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
In ✢ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven
and all things are made new.
Rejoice in this good news!
Amen.