



And the Word
became flesh and
lived among us ...

John 1:14, ESV

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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<u>People of Zion</u>	Minister
Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen	Pastor
Sister Jean Widmeyer	Visitation Minister
Paul Shilton	Minister of Music
Laura Burton	Organist
Sandra Mogensen	Pianist

CHRISTMAS 2

January 3, 2021

As we, once again, are not able to have “in person” worship, we are back to doing a different form of the bulletin to keep you in touch. Here is your bulletin for today.

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give

them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion; For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you. He has established peace on your borders; he satisfies you with the finest wheat. He sends out his command to the earth, and his word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against his cold? He sends forth his word and melts them; he blows with his wind, and the waters flow. He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgements to Israel. He has not done so to any other nation; to them he has not revealed his judgements. Hallelujah!

Psalm 147:13-21

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing

came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.]

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the flesh or of the will of men, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Sermon:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1hjcoMDtQ7fpNqj4S>

Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff's sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading "Sermons")

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory.

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh

those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially Muriel, Klaus, Jack, Peter, John, Anne, Mervyn, Ken, Mary, Beryl, Katana, Neil, Maria, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby*).

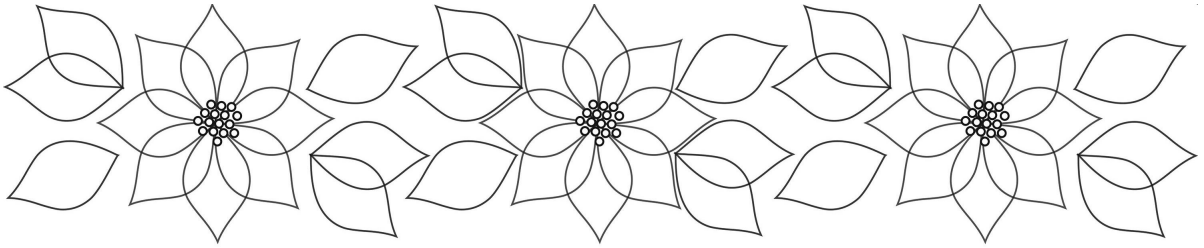
You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another.

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

ALL EVENTS
REMAIN
CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE





ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ****

As you probably have heard, Ontario has been placed in lock down as of 12:01 A.M. December 26, 2020.

As a result, the Bishop recommends the suspension of ALL “In-Person” Worship until further notice.

Please stay tuned to our website

www.zionstratford.com

as

Pastor Jeff will continue to record his Sermons and Jane will continue to advise you of any updates and/or further announcements.



FAREWELL & BEST OF LUCK

Christmas Day, December 25, 2020 was the last time Marco would be playing the organ at Worship. He is leaving us to take a journey down a different form of musical path.

We “*THANK YOU*” Marco for your dedication and for sharing your musical talents with us over the past eleven (11) years.

We “*WISH YOU LUCK*” on your new venture!!

WELCOME

When we are permitted to recommence “In Person” worship, we will welcome the musical talents of Laura Burton who will take on the role as our new “Organist”. We are excited and look forward to the day we are given permission to, once again, gather together in Worship! More information will be published at that time.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes have been prepared. We are attempting to deliver to local addresses. If you live outside the city limits, and wish to pick them up, please call Jane and arrange a time.

**PLEASE BEGIN TO USE YOUR NEW ENVELOPES NOW AS WE
ENTER INTO JANUARY, 2021**

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Annual Reports are due **Monday, January 4, 2021**. Committee Chairpersons are asked to write an article for the committee’s events over the past year 2020.

Also due, **Monday, January 11, 2021** are articles for the February Newsletter.

Thank you!

ETERNITY FOR TODAY

We have a few copies of “Eternity For Today” available. Anyone interested in checking out this publication, which emphasizes “Living our Faith” through daily prayer and scripture readings, is asked to call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 to make arrangements to have one delivered to you.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY

We have attached a 2021 calendar for your children to colour. Enjoy!!



**AS WE BEGIN A NEW
YEAR MAY GOD**

**KEEP YOU SAFE;
BLESS YOU WITH
GOOD HEALTH;
AND
BRING YOU
HAPPINESS !!**