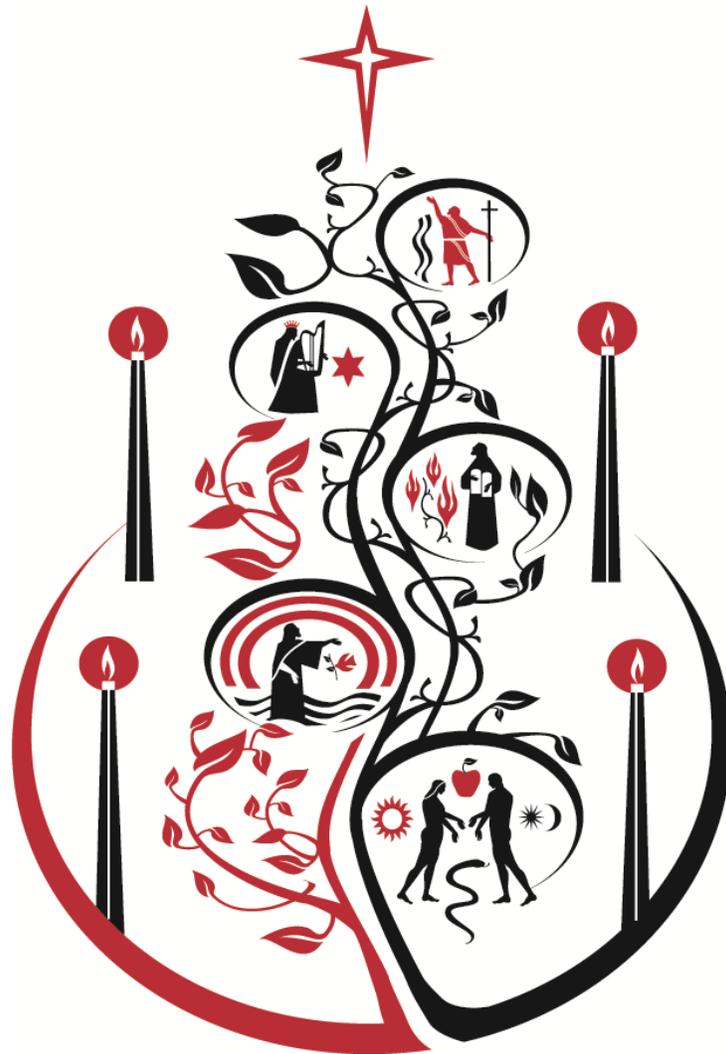


Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019



GOLD HILL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE MONTANA SYNOD OF
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)

Welcome to Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church, and a special welcome to our guests and those returning after a time away. We're gathered as a Christian community to worship the Lord!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!

Please let us know if there are other ways we can be of service.

Guests are invited to fill out the small green contact card in the rack in front of you and hand it to the Pastor or other worship leaders or place it in the offering plate.

We promise not to 'stalk' anyone – we're just trying to let you know we care.

Our Congregation's Mission Statement:

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE

The Guiding Principles of God's People at Gold Hill Lutheran

Principle 1: Jesus Christ is our Lord & Savior

Principle 2: The Holy Spirit & worship strengthen us

Principle 3: We are a welcoming & inviting community in Christ

Principle 4: We share the Word with confidence and courage

Principle 5: Our faith leads us to serve joyfully

Principle 6: We are generous with our gifts

www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT

Check out our GROWING website at www.GoldHillLutheran.org

934 Placer Street – Butte, MT 59701 – 406-723-4242

Mary Johnston – ChurchOffice@GoldHillLutheran.org

Pastor Trina Johnsten, interim - PastorGoldHill@gmail.com

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leaders:	Pastor Trina Johnsten, interim
Assisting Minister:	Julie Corbin
Music Ministers:	Dave Coleman
Communion Ministers:	Curt & Jeanette Quist
Ushers:	Alan & Lynn Aniksdal
Roving Greeter:	Patti Chain
Additional Servant Ministers:	Tavia Broudy & Ruschelle Tyvand

The Third Sunday of Advent
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*Indicates that congregation stands.
Bolded texts are said in unison.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, #257, vs 1 and 7

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

We gather in the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn** *Hark, the Glad Sound!* #239

***Greeting** page 203

***Kyrie** page 203

***Glory to God** page 204

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Gathering of Offering

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, #631

Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving	page 206
Holy, Holy, Holy	page 207
Words of Institution	
The Lord's Prayer	page 208
Lamb of God	page 208

Communion

All are welcome at this Table – members, guests, children, friends.

Communion will be served continuously today.

Come forward by the center aisle, find an open spot, and return to your seat by the outside aisle.

If you are unable to come forward, we will bring Communion to you.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

Please let the communion servers know if you need these.

Communion Hymn

Bread of Life from Heaven, #474

***Blessing and Prayer**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Benediction**

Announcements

***Sending Hymn**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, #270

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

Isaiah 35:1-10

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalms 146:5-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**Who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever.**

Who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.