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# The Zion Spirit



*"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"*

November 18, 2020

## Worship This Week: Christ the King Sunday

Online worship this week will use the events in the book of Jeremiah to explore how God works in the world and even more so, how God works in the hearts of people of faith. It is the "new covenant" that we have in Jesus. We'll think about how our hearts shape our lives and how character and listening to Christ's voice guide us in our lives.

Our Facebook Live Premier process has worked well – response is good and attendance last week was good. We'll keep working on this and making adjustments as we move forward, but we are excited about how it is going and your feedback has been really helpful.

Our lessons will be from Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; and 31:31-34. These will be the basis for the sermon. We'll also look at the Gospel of Luke 22:14-20. So, if you have a few minutes, look up the lessons and read them before worship on Sunday. See you online!

## Fall Stewardship Campaign

This week a mailing went out to each of our homes. In it was a cover letter from Pastor Dave and Deacon Marlene, a statement of giving through October 30th to help you see what you have been doing in 2020, and a commitment card for you to complete and return.

Please take some time to offer God a prayer of gratitude for the blessings you have and to ask God for guidance on what you should give to the work of Christ in the church in the year ahead. Please complete the giving card with your personal goals on it to help the church know what you hope to do. This will also help you as the year unfolds and you receive statements so you can track whether you are doing what you hoped to do as well.

Your giving matters to Zion's ongoing work. We have found our way through 2020 and your generosity has helped make that possible. 2021 lies ahead – and God has many adventures still in store for us. Thank you for all you do!



## Zion's Evening Thanksgiving Service



This year's Thanksgiving worship will be online at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 24th. We'll try a Zoom worship and fellowship approach so that we can have different people help and encourage both a time of worship and a time of fellowship (sorry – no pie provided this year). To join that evening use this link – no pre-registration required – just log on that evening at 7:00 PM!

Here is the link info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87695323359?pwd=TGh1TjdQUVRKWERMU0I1Vk5GbTNLUT09>

Audio only by phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 876 9532 3359

Passcode: 706798

## Elgin Community Thanksgiving Celebration Online This Year!



There is an online community Interfaith Thanksgiving service on Sunday afternoon, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 PM.

This is the annual community service planned by the Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders. Because of the pandemic, it will be online but we think you will like it.

- ◆ You must register in advance for this event: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMod-irpz8iHt2\\_6qkMVBgqmya7GuBNLitP](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMod-irpz8iHt2_6qkMVBgqmya7GuBNLitP)
- ◆ After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the community service on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Worship Readers Wanted!



If you would be willing to come to the church and read the lesson sometime for recording and use in online worship, please let Pastor Dave know. We can have you come in at a mutually agreed on time and record the verse of the month and the first lesson in the sanctuary. This is a chance to get more people involved as we move forward.

## No Sunday School This Week It resumes on November 29th!



### Offering Envelopes? What Will You Need?

Our congregation has a variety of giving practices – many use PayPal, many use the Vanco portal for online giving, and many give using cash or checks. So we are rethinking how we have done this in the past to be more responsive to your giving choices and to both give you what you need and waste less resources in the process. Next week we will send out an email with the specific options along with instructions for you to reply and tell us what you need to help you with your giving. Based on that we will develop sets of weekly and monthly envelopes, building fund envelopes and seasonal envelopes (Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas) for you to have. This will save several hundred dollars in unused resources from the previous method but also give each person what he or she prefers for giving. Please respond when you see the email next week!

### Advent and Christmas Are Just Around the Corner!



Advent starts next week and there will be a huge array of things. These will include a Wednesday evening series (Dec 2, 9 and 16); weekly Advent wreath lightings in the church yard; banners with invitations for you to post on the themes of hope, peace, love and joy; and an outdoor program in the church yard on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be an Advent food drive to tie in with the city's food drive in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. (moved from January to earlier because of high needs due to the COVID crisis). We'll also be adding video elements to Sunday worship to celebrate the season as we also work through the hanging of the greens in decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

Watch for a special email to come out this week with details on all of these things and so much more! We've had a great team working on this and they have lots of energy to make Advent and Christmas meaningful in this unique year.

### Congregational Meeting – November 22nd

Our annual meeting will take place online using Zoom on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 AM. At that meeting we will:

- Elect new church council members
- Elect members of the memorial committee
- Adopt a budget for 2021.
- Discuss the changes in offering envelope and enhanced giving options
- Give an introduction to Advent/Christmas plans for this year

The meeting will be on Zoom. Here is the info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7406120911?pwd=and6ZzRUkzFWaWJiMXpmVzVtazlxZz09>

Meeting ID: 740 612 0911

Passcode: 5600048

By phone for audio only: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 740 612 0911

Passcode: 5600048

*For those few people who want to participate and who do not have Zoom access, Pastor Dave will be at the church and have space for you to attend in person. If you plan to attend in person, please let Pastor Dave or Deacon Marlene know ahead so safe and helpful arrangements are ready to receive you.*

### Advent Stories Wanted!

This year's Advent work will include some online sharing of stories from your family traditions. Each week we will share a theme and have a few excerpts in worship online. Themes are:

- Advent 1: The Advent wreath and Advent calendars
- Advent 2: The Christmas Tree and ornaments
- Advent 3: Nativity Scenes
- Advent 4: Unique ethnic and family traditions

Erin Ramirez will record you using a Zoom interview, so please reach out to her if any of the above topics spark a memory or story for you! She can be reached at [ERDRamirez1@Gmail.com](mailto:ERDRamirez1@Gmail.com) to connect



**Memory Verse for this Month**

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)*

**Do You Have the Phone App for Our Zion Community?**

We have a relatively new phone app for our congregation that we are working to expand. With it, there is opportunity to communicate with each other or groups, such as Soup Kettle, Council, small groups, etc.. For example, if we needed to pivot at the last minute for a meeting or gathering due to Covid numbers, or send a reminder about a meeting or you needed to get a message to someone, you could simply go into the app and send it. There is an option to make your phone number and email available, or you can hide it. You can include a picture to help others remember who you are if you choose. This is also part of our Vanco app that many of you use for your giving. This "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" app is available at your phone app store. Simply find our congregation and send a request, or call Marlene if you're having trouble. Come and join the growing number of us using the app!

**Thanks for Sending in Your Offerings**

We are thankful that the people of Zion are so committed to this place doing God's work and doing it well. You are all doing amazing work and you need to hear a big "well done good and faithful servants!" As you know, it is helping Zion participate in God's work in this important and challenging time.

**This Week's Calendar:****Sunday, November 22**

9:30 AM – Worship on Facebook Live

10:30 AM – Congregational Meeting on Zoom

4:00 PM – Elgin Community Thanksgiving Service (registration needed ahead using the link in the article above)

**Tuesday, November 24**

7:00 PM – Zion's Online Thanksgiving

8:00 PM – AA Meeting

**Thursday, November 26**

Thanksgiving (make good decisions)

**Saturday, November 28**

10:00 AM – AA Meeting

8:00 PM – AA Meeting

**Next Sunday, November 29 – Advent Begins**

9:30 AM – Worship on Facebook Live

10:30 AM – Kids Sunday School Online