

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

We ask you to, if you wish,.....

PRINT THE ATTACHED BULLETIN...to follow along with Sunday's Service.
As you are worshipping from home, you are invited to set aside a sacred space for worship.
Light a candle and set out your bread and wine.

Worship Service - Streaming live @ 9:30am or watch later!



Click on image OR
FB Search: Saint James Lutheran Church of Columbus, Montana



Click on image or the link below to be directed to our website:
www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org

**Scroll down to "Click here for the St. James YouTube link"

To our faithful followers at home or where ever you are, PLEASE let us know you are watching by writing a post or give your name.
We'd love to hear from you!

****We hope these attachments are an encouragement to you as we are.....**



~ "Fling Wide the Door" Advent Devotional from Luther Seminary
~ "Names of Jesus Advent Calendar Weekly Devotional to help you focus on Jesus as we get closer to Christmas Eve.



Revelation 22:16 John 10:11 Matthew 16:20 Matthew 12:40 John 1:41 Luke 2:11 Matthew 1:21

St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019

Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557

Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com



*Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith,
share our faith and serve with the love of God"*

Sunday December 18th, 2022

4th Sunday in Advent – "Comfort and Joy"

Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

Let us stand, as you are able, and prepare our hearts for worship

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be
with you alland also be with you.*

Special Song by the Combined Choir – "Were You There on that Christmas?"

Let us stand, as you are able, and prepare our hearts for worship

Call to Worship: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

- 1 God rest ye merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

- 2 The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced with much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind
And went to Bethl'hem straight away the Son of God to find ***Refrain:***

Lighting the 4th Candle of Advent: Pastor Tonia & Donna Zeigler, LPA

WE SING: ***to the tune of "O worship the King, All Glorious Above!"*

**The candle of love tells what we are worth: God loves us so much God came to
the earth! An angel brought news of a child who would be; The one who would
save us and set us all free.**

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

*God of new beginnings, we confess we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have
strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one
another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on
your way of love, so we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your
coming among us. Amen.*

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin which hinders our faith, so eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the

good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Read Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 responsively by whole verse

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you who are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.** ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume you're your people pray?** ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.** ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.** ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Hear the 2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel

The Gospel Acclamation:

We sing: **“Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

The Gospel according to Matthew:

We sing the response after the announcement: **“Glory to you, O Lord”**

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord:

We sing the response after the conclusion: **“Praise to you, O Christ”**

Sermon: “God is With Us”

Reflection Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*At this time, you are invited to go forward and light a candle of remembrance
as we take time to reflect on God's word*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

.....and we say: and also with you.

MEAL

....we thank you for your faithfulness to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings and allowing us to do God's work with our hands.

Bread & Wine and Our Gifts are brought forward..... while we sing

The Offering Hymn: "What Feast of Love" **to the tune "What Child Is This"

What feast of love is offered here? What banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

Offering Prayer

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Table Setting Hymn: "In the Singing"



1 In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pect-ant, o-pen,



in the bless-ing, in the break-ing, in your pres-ence at this ta-ble,

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

...we join their unending hymn:

(C) sings: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Mystery of our Faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Invitation to Communion

In this meal of bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present forgiving sin, reconciling us to God and one another, and giving new life. Christ is host. Christ is the one who invites us to the table even while it is properly understood as the meal of the baptized. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

As communion is distributed, you are invited to sing the following hymns:

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

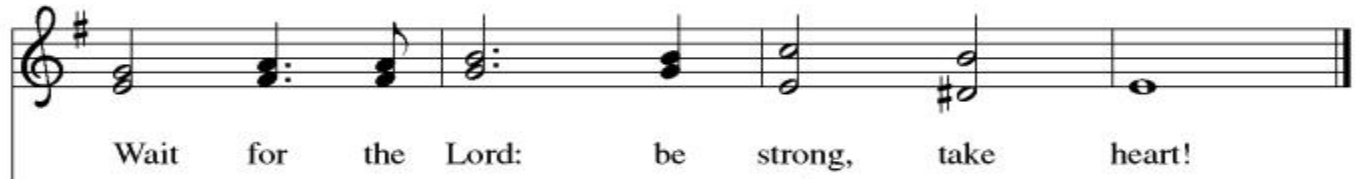


for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

“Wait for the Lord” Repeat:



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

“In the Bleak Midwinter”



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

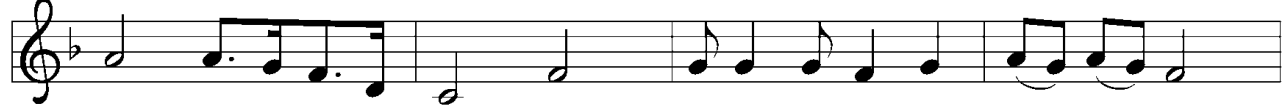
Prayer after Communion..... and we say: **Amen.**

SENDING

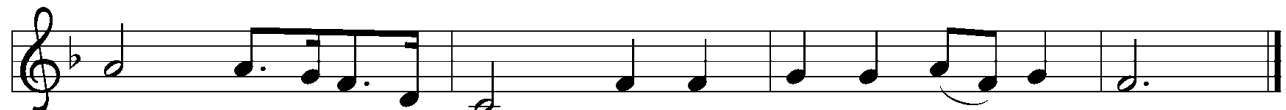
Benediction..... and we say: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Dismissal Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

December 2022 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke

December 2022 Cleaner(s): Leanne Sekora, Pat Lofing & Merridy Gauthier

December 2022 Reader(s): Maureen Hemphill

December 18th, 2022 Communion Helper(s): **Will someone sign up to help this Sunday?**

Thank you, Brian & Sheri Luepke for helping with communion last Sunday

December 18th, 2022 Usher(s): **Will someone sign up to help this Sunday?**

Thank you, Chris Fleury for ushering last Sunday.

December 18th, 2022 Gate Keepers: Rae Ellen Strickland & Carrie Williams

2022 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames



Sally and Jim for providing delicious refreshments during fellowship last Sunday!

December Mission offering.....

~ Your continued support benefits

ELCA Charities i.e. World Hunger & Relief; Freedom in Christ; Good Gifts

We continue one last weekend to choose the "Reverse Advent Calendar" items for Project Hope's Food Bank

Add your choice to the box at the front of the IGA store or create your own box and give to PH by **TOMORROW December 19th!**

Thank you again in advance for your generosity!

Thank you for your prayers and generosity. May the Lord bless you and give you peace.

"Your faith in God's mission for St. James is unshakeable."

FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER.....

December 4th Offering gratefully received \$3,240.00

Total received so far this month \$3,240.00

**Our 2022 monthly budget to meet is \$ 8,008.33

Jan (\$634.43) + Feb (\$1,718.33) + Mar (\$3,428.33) + Apr (\$1,868.33) - May \$6,476.91 + June (\$2,613.33) + July (\$2,248.33) + August (\$2,250.33) + September (\$1,432.33) + October (\$1,528.03) + November (\$2,283.33) =

YTD UNDER Monthly Budget by negative (\$13,528.19)

Continued reminder of how to give your monthly tithe or offering to your church.....

1. Mail your offering to the church at St. James Lutheran Church, PO Box 356, Columbus, MT, 59019
2. Take your envelope offering to Pastor Tonia's parsonage and put in the designated box on her front porch.
3. Stop in at your bank and arrange a monthly auto pay transaction.
4. Give online through **Tithe.ly**, a giving app endorsed by the ELCA. Each transaction carries a small fee. Your gift is safe / secure and goes directly to our church or ministry. Plus, you'll be able to track all your gifts, setup recurring, and more!

Tithe.ly (click on this blue "Tithe.ly" link – takes you directly to St. James' account to sign-up)

Remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

For new prayer requests, please contact **Pastor Tonia**. Text or call her at (406) 656-9557 or email her at toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

For those hospitalized, in nursing homes and homebound, and those battling cancer or other illnesses.

We offer new prayers for:

Pastor Tonia's brother, John Strohecker, who's 4-wheeler flipped while he was checking on cattle Tuesday. It was a traumatic accident. John suffered a collapsed lung and 10 broken ribs. His wife, Debbie, also needs our prayers, this is traumatic on her, also. God of healing, be with John, bring healing to his body and to his spirit as he recovers from this accident. Give wisdom and skill to the medical staff as they minister to his physical being. Comfort Debbie as she sits with John. Be with them during his recovery as he runs the ranch. Give them patience and wisdom. Amen

We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Steve & Denise Cowan; Bob & Bev Kem; Vi Ekle; Bonny Rouse; Joy Goehner; Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; Kyme Noble.


Those living with cancer: Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Araceli Enano; Rick Cox; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy; Jim Wilson and Sandy Yoder's daughter in law, Lola.

Those with COVID and those dealing with its lasting effects.

The children of the world, this is a big request, but God is big. Children who are food & home insecure. Pray especially for a little boy named Luke and a little girl named Nevaeh.

Ukraine and her people

***Please pray for all of those who serve in our military domestically & overseas,
As well as their spouses and children***

We are  to have hired Will Moore to keep our sidewalk and street free from snow and ice and safe for the members of St. James!!



Happy December Birthday

Pete Hegg 12/4; Sydne Wanner 12/6; Maureen Hemphill 12/7;
Nancy Stenerson 12/7; Rusty Stenerson 12/8; Larry Goehner 12/14;
Carrie Williams 12/14; Peggy Herzog 12/23; Lisa Kem 12/29



Happy December Anniversary

Steve & Cindy Smith 12/7; Danny & Betty Ames 12/26;
Don & Peggy Herzog 12/26; Steve & Denise Cowan 12/28

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES
to REFLECT GOD'S LOVE to OURSELVES, to EACH OTHER
and to OUR NEIGHBORS

WEEKLY REMINDERS:

- ***Every Wednesday*** Watch Pastor Tonia's "Word on Wednesday" message on FB or open the Word(s) on Wednesday email with a copy of Pastor Tonia's weekly message and two Bible Crossword Puzzles.

- **Every Friday or Saturday** The Weekly Preparing for Worship email arrives in your inbox with the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday Worship service and, also, Reflections during Advent. The “Children’s Worship Bulletins” series for you to open & enjoy and share with your family & friends will now be available on our website during Advent.

Reminder... GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS at St. James



We are again providing the St. James “Taxi” Service from Meadowlark to Church, this time for Jo Lind.

Anyone, anytime, give Jo a call @ (406) 322-4497 to offer a ride to our Sunday service. She is living in Suite #13.

We have members who have moved away from Columbus and members whom we miss coming to St. James:
Please remember them all in our prayers and reach out to them with a card or phone call.



Dwelling in the Word

Join in a 30-minute Zoom conversation with others around the Montana Synod for a time of “Dwelling in the Word”, a practice of listening to a passage of scripture and pondering what the Holy Spirit might be saying to each person during the time together. Since March of 2020, DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger and others in the Synod have joined in this time to pray, converse, and support one another.

Topic: Dwelling in the Word for three more Thursday’s@ 8:30 am

To Join Zoom Meeting: Click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84336859392?pwd=QXR1ZXNCSjFuZTJQaUZHWVWmK3F6QT09>

Meeting ID: 843 3685 9392

Passcode: 740661

St James’ Christmas Eve Service

Saturday December 24th

5:30pm





*We'd love for you to share your
Poinsettias to beautify the Altar for
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!*

St James' Christmas Day Service

Sunday December 25th

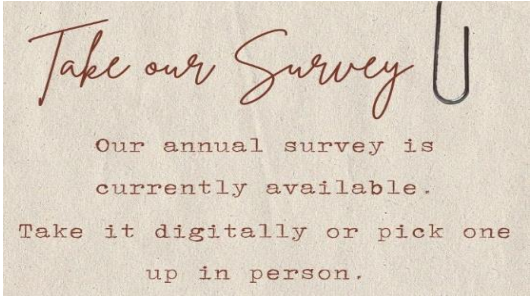
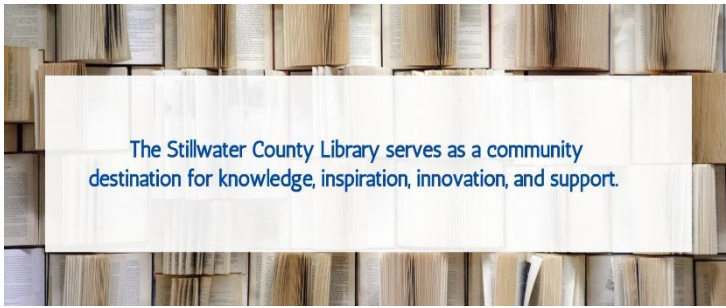
9:30am



Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

MORE Community Events for St. James:

- Every Monday we are invited to join:
 - ~The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-11am.
- Every Tuesday we are invited to attend:
 - ~ The Women's Adult Group at the Stillwater Youth Center at 9:30am and/or 7:00pm for an inductive study on Revelation
 - ~ Absarokee Quilting Group – 10am in the basement of the Cobblestone building. Knitters, crocheters and embroiderers are welcome.
- Every Wednesday we are invited to join:
 - ~ Social Hour at the Columbus Senior Center at 9:30am
 - ~ The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-11am



Every answer helps the library improve programming to meet more needs and wants throughout the county! Your anonymous contribution is valued!

Here's the link to take it online or we have printed copies at the Stillwater County Library.

10 short questions to better your community! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HK9CZTX>

THIS WEEKS ANSWERS:

**** Check Wednesday 12/14 e-mail for these puzzles**



Obadiah

- 1. Despised
- 2. Pride
- 3. Eagle
- 4. Ransack
- 5. Slaughter
- 6. Esau
- 7. Teman
- 8. Jacob
- 9. Jerusalem
- 10. Deliverance

Jonah

- 1. Nineveh
- 2. Amittai
- 3. Cargo
- 4. Hebrew
- 5. Praise
- 6. Forty
- 7. Sackcloth
- 8. Compassion
- 9. Relented
- 10. anger

Micah

- 1. Humbly
- 2. Bethlehem
- 3. Temple
- 4. Assyria
- 5. Forever
- 6. Evil
- 7. Plowshares
- 8. Peace
- 9. Divination
- 10. Exiles

