



**Sunday
December 3, 2017**

First Sunday in Advent
Worship at 9:30 AM

GATHERING

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Gathering Song

Awake! Awake! And Greet the New Morn

Hymnal #242

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.
- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Lighting the First Advent Candle

As you made the impossible possible for Elizabeth and Zechariah may your presence in our lives remind us that with you all things are possible. May our hope grow as we wait the coming of your son who brings joy and love. Amen.

Song Choose to Hope

Hope is born when we choose to believe
That love is stronger than hatred;
Love is born when our hearts learn to see
That ev'ry person is sacred.

In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love,
And know that God is near.

Hope will grow when we choose to believe
That we are sisters and brothers;
Love will grow when our hearts learn to see
The life we share with each other.

In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love,
And know that God is near.

Hope will shine when we choose to believe
A little child will lead us;
Love will shine when our hearts learn to see
That God is dwelling within us.

In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love,
And know that God is near.

Sing out hope through the violence and fear,
For God is present beside us;
Prince of Peace, make your home with us here,
Your love and wisdom will guide us.

In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love,
And know that God is near.

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Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Bible, pg. 606

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Children's Message

Please stand, as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word

Jesus loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches Son of God
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe Light of the world

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In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

Glory to you, O Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Message

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song

Hymn of the Day

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Hymnal #250

- 1 Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.

- 2 With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.

- 3 My child, as prophet of the Lord
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

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Apostles' Creed

Hymnal pg. 105

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

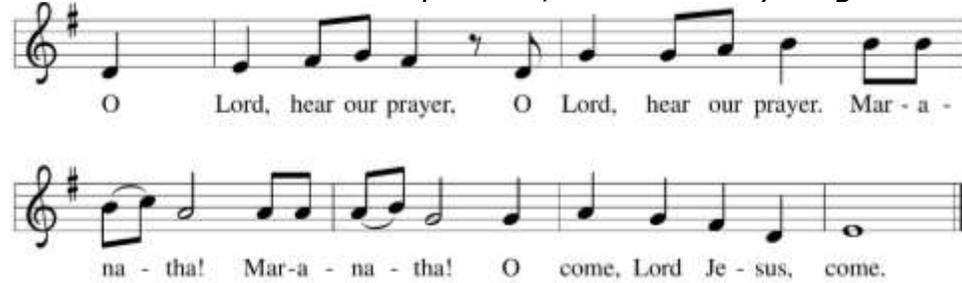
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of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

At the conclusion of each petition, the assembly sings:



O Lord, hear our prayer. O Lord, hear our prayer. Mar - a -
na - tha! Mar-a - na - tha! O come, Lord Je - sus, come.

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Peace

MEAL

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Anthem during the offering

Blessed is the Lord (Benedictus)

Proul/Forrest

Marie, please include the text for this anthem

Zechariah's song

*Benedictus, Benedictus,
Blessed is our Lord.
Benedictus, Benedictus,
Welcome His Incarnate Word.*

*Chosen first among the priests to serve within the temple walls,
Zecharias stood in awe when he heard the angel call.*

*Benedictus, Benedictus,
Blessed is our Lord.
Benedictus, Benedictus,
Welcome His Incarnate Word.*

*"Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, will come, salvation's horn."
"God incarnate, Word made flesh, to a virgin shall be born."*

*Benedictus, Benedictus,
Blessed is our Lord.
Benedictus, Benedictus,
Welcome His Incarnate Word.*

*Christ brings light to sin's dark night:
Our Dayspring, Jesus from on high,
Saints and angels sing God's praise.
All the earth and Heav'ns reply:*

*Benedictus, Benedictus,
Blessed is our Lord.
Benedictus, Benedictus,
Welcome His Incarnate Word.*

*Benedictus, Benedictus,
Blessed is our Lord.
Benedictus, Benedictus,
Welcome His Incarnate Word.*

*Benedictus, Benedictus,
Welcome His Incarnate Word.*

Offertory Come Now, O Prince of Peace Hymnal #247

- 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
 Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
- 4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Text: Geon-yong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Text © Geonyong Lee.

Offering Prayer

As we offer these gifts to you, O Lord, we remember that you are indeed the greatest gift. Your presence among us gives hope and life in the darkest of times. May these gifts bring hope and life to others and share the light of Christ to all the world.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.

Music during Communion

Lamb of God

Hymnal pg. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Anthem Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness arr. Raney

Hymn My Lord, What a Morning Hymnal #438

Refrain

My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

- 1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. The bass staff contains a bass line of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The treble staff melody is: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. The bass staff bass line is: G2, A2, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Prayer after Communion

God we give you thanks because at this table you have filled us with hope. As your joyous light guided the shepherds, the magi, Simeon, Anna, and many others to the presence of Christ so you have brought us to your table and shared your love with us once more. Thank you for making us people of hope.

Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

*People of hope,
You are blessed by God's love breaking in to your lives.
People of hope,
You are blessed by the gift of Christ, transforming your lives.
People of hope,
You are blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, guiding your lives of love
and service to all.*

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Sending Song

He Came Down

Hymnal #253

- 1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 4 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude