



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts

Lector: Jeffrey Zarth (8:00 a.m.) Roger Slack (9:15 a.m.)

Ushers: Steve Ewald (8:00 a.m.) Elsa and Matt Jones (9:15 a.m.)

Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Rejoice, Rejoice" Haugen/Miller

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: We praise you O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

C: **As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.**

P: Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

C: **Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen**

Music is played as the first candle is lit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: We confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN: "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" #242 ELW vss. 1,2,4

Vs. 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.**

**Vs. 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.**

Vs. 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.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

LITANY

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" #257 ELW vss. 1, 2

Vs 1: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

***Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Vs. 2: O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **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.**

ANTHEM: "O Come, O Come Immanuel" Natalie Sleeth Kyla Betts, Soloist

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ²As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to ^[b]our sins. ⁸Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Emmanuel"

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us; his name is called Emmanuel.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 13th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

²⁴⁻²⁵ “Following those hard times, Sun will fade out, moon cloud over, Stars fall out of the sky, cosmic powers tremble. ²⁶⁻²⁷ “And then they’ll see the Son of Man enter in grand style, his Arrival filling the sky—no one will miss it! He’ll dispatch the angels; they will pull in the chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole. ²⁸⁻³¹ “Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer’s just around the corner. And so it is with you. When you see all these things, you know he is at the door. Don’t take this lightly. I’m not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won’t wear out. ³²⁻³⁷ “But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven’s angels, not even the Son. Only the Father. So keep a sharp lookout, for you don’t know the timetable. It’s like a man who takes a trip, leaving home and putting his servants in charge, each assigned a task, and commanding the gatekeeper to stand watch. So, stay at your post, watching. You have no idea when the homeowner is returning, whether evening, midnight, cockcrow, or morning. You don’t want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job. I say it to you, and I’m saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: “Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory” #561 ELW

Vs. 1: Joyous light of heav’nly glory, loving glow of God’s own face,
you who sing creation’s story, shine on ev’ry land and race.

Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

Vs. 2: In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

Vs. 3: You who made the heaven’s splendor, ev’ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.

**Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.**

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 INTERCESION

P: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Honk your horns three times after each petition.

P: We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with

relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

THE 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.

ANOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN: "Soon and Very Soon" #439 ELW

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. (3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.

No more cyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. (3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. (3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. (3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

POSTLUDE: "Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"