

GET READY FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

During the period of online worship, our worship style is simplified, with no musical liturgy, but with hymns and/or songs. The texts of hymns and songs will be printed in this online bulletin where they appear in the order of worship. You are encouraged to sing along at home with the accompaniment from the musician at church.

This is a time to bust forth fully in song without worrying about being heard by the congregation, which should encourage some of the more shy singers among you, and to give full prayerful voice to fear or sorrow, supplications for mercy, and of course, to trust, hope and praise.

HOW WE SHALL RECEIVE COMMUNION

Members are encouraged to have gathered both bread and wine or grape juice in the space where family members will gather for worship, so that everyone may participate in the full liturgy of the Eucharist. Even if you are alone in your home, please partake of the body and blood of Christ in the forms of bread and wine. We are together in the Body of Christ, by God's loving Spirit, even when we are not present with another in our own flesh.

The radio frequency that you can hear the worship service is 94.3FM.

**Special Congregational Meeting in the parking lot at
10:30 am on December 13.**

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday

December 13, 2020

Liturgist

N/A

Accompanist

Praise Band

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

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.**

Call to Worship: *We Are Called*

We are called, we are claimed, we are loved, by the holy name. We are healed, we are whole, the Savior ransomed our souls and we're singing

Glory Glory Glory Hallelujah Glory Gloria Oh Glory Glory Glory
Hallelujah Glory Gloria

We are here to proclaim, God is here, calls us each by name. We are here, to give praise, the Love of God will not change and we're singing.

Glory Glory Glory Hallelujah Glory Gloria Oh Glory Glory Glory
Hallelujah Glory Gloria

Advent Candle Liturgy

Reader 1

Renata Eustice-Cleveland

Listen to the word of God from Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy

and singing. ...Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

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; 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.

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...the redeemed shall walk there.

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.

(Isa. 35:1-10)

Reader 2

Sandy Barton

Advent is about joy. But our times seem little suited for rejoicing. Our culture irritates and entertains, intoxicates and numbs, but rejoicing seems like a foreign idea. You can't do it on cue. Joy can't be bought and sold. You can't plan for it or train for it. It doesn't fit into a well-ordered life, and it's not FDA approved.

Joy comes only when least expected. We rejoice only when life has been turned on its ear; when—whatever we feared, whatever we steeled ourselves against—some gift of God has presented itself instead. When we rein in our loves to protect ourselves from pain, when we curtain our hopes from fear of disappointment, when we equip ourselves with cynicism to avoid looking foolish, we do so at the expense of joy.

Candle-lighter: *3 candles are lit while the song is sung*

Light three candles to watch for Messiah;

Let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

Pastor

As freedom can only be tasted in all its sweetness by those who know the feel of chains, so joy sings with its most full-throated glory only in spirits enlarged by the weight of despair and softened by the brine of tears. Pleasures floats on the surface of life. Happiness flits across a moment or an hour. But joy springs from the depths.

Joy is new life beating in a heart that has been broken. Joy is awakening to a fair morning from a nightmare of reality. Joy is a flight sunward on wings you had forgotten you had. Joy is the sound of laughter erupting from a procession of grief. Joy is God's melody amid the discord of life, a song carrying the rhythm of eternity and touching the chords of longing in our souls.

Gathering Song: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

ELW 254

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;

by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Liturgy of the Word

Confession of Sin

P: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: God who calls us is faithful to us,
Let us be faithful in our confession. (*pause- what is faithful?*)
O God,

C: so little of our lives are devoted to you
We only turn to our relationship with you,
when we need something special.
We count on your everlasting covenant
but our prayers end quickly
and our thanks are only for exceptionally good things -
all for our own interests, so they do not to display your glory
You even give to us the light of the world,
but we turn off our relationship
and hold fast to evil
and abstain from what is good.
Save us Lord from the sins we know.
Save us Lord from the sins we hide.

(pause for reflection and self-examination)

P: Light is coming into the world. Witnesses testify to the light that we may become believers through him. Our God sends to us Jesus Christ so that our relationship with God may be restored. For Christ's sake our sins are forgiven. Christ is that light, revealing the glory of the Lord. In the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Song of Mercy

Mercy, oh mercy, ever loving kindness
that sees beyond our blindness.

Mercy, oh mercy,
we're calling on you Lord
for us to be restored.
Oh mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READING: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Kate Christy

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations

⁸For I the LORD love justice,

I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,

and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge

that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise

to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 126

¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

then were we like those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

³The Lord has done great things for us,

and we are glad indeed. **R**

⁴Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Kate Christy

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Verse: Thy Word

Leader: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

**Congregation: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord**

GOSPEL: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel according John the 1st chapter. **Glory, to you, O Lord**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Grace Heimerdinger-Baake

Sermon

Pastor Heidi Williams

Hymn of the Day: *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

ELW 249

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;

oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Apostles 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 church

Liturgy of the Meal

During this season of online worship, we ask you to bring your gifts and offerings to your gathering table at home in the same way as in worship in the church, before sending them on to the church.

Offering

Offering Song: *Everybody's Got Something to Offer*

Refrain: Everybody's got something to offer
young and old, the prince and the pauper
Everybody's got something to offer in the
name of the Lord

To the lost and the lowly ones
the message it is clear we have

all got a gift to give our hands,
our hearts, our tears

Refrain

To the believers gathered here
the message it is true we have
all got a gift to give in all we
say and do

Refrain

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you
have first given us ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your
gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for
us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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.

Eucharist Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

If you are communing from home, offer each other the bread with these words "The Body of Christ given for you" and the wine with "The blood of Christ shed for you."

Communion Song: What Feast of Love

ELW 487

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!

What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the promise of full joy that this season brings to light.

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

For all the troubles life can bring, you bring amazing possibilities that fill our hearts with joy.

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

Renew in us this day the promises of light after darkness, day after night, hope after despair, joy in this and every morning, for our trust is in you. Amen.

Benediction:

Oh mighty God Father Son Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending

Sending Hymn: *Soon and Very Soon*

ELW 439

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King! Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Monday, December 14

Psalm 125
1 Kings 18: 1-18
Ephesians 6: 10-17

Tuesday, December 15

Psalm 125
2 Kings 2: 9-22
Acts 3: 17 – 4: 4

Wednesday, December 16

Psalm 125
Malachi 3: 16 – 4: 6
Mark 9: 9-13

Thursday, December 17

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
2 Samuel 6: 1-11
Hebrews 1: 1-4

Friday, December 18

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
2 Samuel 6: 12-19
Hebrews 1: 5-14

Saturday, December 19

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
Judges 13: 2-24
John 7: 40-52

Sunday, December 20

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Luke 1: 46b-55
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We encourage our members to take appropriate steps to protect their health and prevent the spread of any illness:

- Cover your nose and mouth with tissues when you cough or sneeze and then place, don't throw, the tissue in the trash after use.
- Wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth to protect yourself from infection.
- Improve your immune system by getting enough rest, exercise regularly, and eat healthy.

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