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Worship
First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022

GATHERING

Greeting and Announcements
Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

A The day is near.

C And so we wait.

A We wait with hope,

C For the brokenhearted to be healed.

A For the downtrodden to be lifted up.

C We wait for the coming of the Christ child.

A In this meantime, we will sing into the silence.

C We will light a candle against the darkness.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C Amen

GATHERING HYMN – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW 257 (vs 1,2)

**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.***

**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***

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

C Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C we confess that 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,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

P People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit, you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✠ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE – “Glory to God”

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you,

we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ,

only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray:

C Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

You may be seated

THE WORD

First Reading – Isaiah 2:1-5

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm – Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading – Romans 13:11-14

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Gospel Acclamation –

Alleluia.* Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. *Alleluia.

P The holy Gospel according to Matthew

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 24:36-44

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY – “My Lord, What a Morning” ELW 438

Refrain

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

**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***

**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***

**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

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

A We affirm our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C 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.

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

A God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care especially our loved ones; Ethel, Sondra, Kathy, Jennie, Tom, Beth, Judy and Gloria. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A What else do the people of God want to lift up to God this day?.....

God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

THE MEAL

OFFERING HYMN – “Come Now, O Prince of Peace” ELW 247 (vs 1,2,3)

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now, O God of love, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

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

OFFERTORY – “Make Me a Servant”

Make me a servant, humble and meek.

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be;

Make me a servant, make me a servant,

Make me a servant today.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (Haugen)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might, heaven 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, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, Heaven and earth are full of you glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P 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.

P 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.

P Remembering, therefore, his death, his resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

P Pour out upon us the Spirit of you love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

***C* Amen, amen, amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

A Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

***C* 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.**

COMMUNION INVITATION

P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

You may be seated

COMMUNION HYMN

Kristan

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – “All Earth Is Hopeful” ELW 266 (1,2,3)

**All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Bethany's Mission Statement –
Accepting
Serving
Loving . . .
We Share God's Embrace**

Accompanist: Kristan Youn

Today's Assistants: Assisting Minister: Kim Hepola
Lector: Mary Anne Clarke
Communion: Moe Aaby
Ushers: Yvonne & Bud Morrison