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Worship
First Sunday of Advent
December 1st, 2024

THE GATHERING

Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

God is Near

Advent is a time to hear again of God's redeeming work.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Advent is a time to hear again of God's reconciling love.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Advent is a time to hear again of our ultimate hope.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Today we light the first candle. The first candle reminds us that as we wait upon the Lord we do so with a sense of heightened awareness. In a world where our attention is easily diverted in many directions. Advent is a time to quiet ourselves and listen for God's word with expectant ears. This Advent may we hear and receive the message of the One who continues to speak.

Let us pray

Gracious God, thank you for the ways you continue to speak to a world in need. Through both prophets and angels you declared the message of hope, the way of healing, and the coming of a Savior. As you spoke in the days of old, so we know you continue to speak to us today. As we begin our Advent journey, grant us ears that truly hear and hearts to openly receive. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

You call us to love those whom you would love,
and give us the words to say.

You call us to bring wholeness to lives that are broken,
and give us the words to say.

You call us to bring comfort to those who are grieving,
and give us the words to say.

You call us to bring good news to those who are seeking,
and give us the words to say.

Your word,
living water in desert sands.

Your word,
Blossoming in parched earth.

Your word,
bearing fruit wherever it is sown.
Amen

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

GATHERING HYMN- Come Now, O Prince of Peace ELW #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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

We have confessed that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

We confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Jesus Christ, whose day draws near.

Amen

Silence is kept for reflection

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, for peace throughout the world, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend, gracious Lord. **Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE – *Gloria - Heritage Mass*

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.
We praise you, we bless you we adore you, we glorify you,
We give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heav'nly King, O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**

**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

Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

THE WORD

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm- 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees

Second Reading- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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. Stand up and raise your heads-your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia

The holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading – Luke 21:25-36

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

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.**

**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

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

We affirm our faith with the words of the 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.

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of the Cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in spouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze.

Lord, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve. Draw them close to you and sooth them with the promise of your enduring love. We pray especially for our loved ones in need of care, Brian, Julies, David, James, Diane, Addy, Phillip, Linda and Stella.

Lord in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love.

Lord, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities.

Lord, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy,
Receive our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy,
Receive our prayer.

Savior of nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Let's share God's peace with one another.

THE MEAL

Lord, we give you today what is already yours. You provide so much for us. Thank you for giving us the ability to give and cheerful hearts to do it. We continue with the offering:

OFFERING HYMN-Give Thanks TFF #292

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!**

Text: Henry Smith

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

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.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

b Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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” – Heritage Mass

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming
again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith,
increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

You may be seated

COMMUNION HYMN / CHOIR

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen

THE SENDING

BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN –Christ, Be Our Light ELW #715 vs 1,2, & 5

**1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain***

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

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

Pastor	The Rev. Sandy Jones
Accompanist	Kristan Youn
Choir Direction	Marin Wilts
Lector	Mary Anne Clark
Communion	Mary Anne Clark & Mary Kerwin
Ushers	Barbara Brown & Laurie Greer
Fellowship:	Maggie Beard & Karen Maglich
Production	Karen Maglich

REMINDERS:

Christmas Brunch Today-Dec 1st @10:00am in Zoellner Hall after 9:00am service ALL ARE WELCOME

Holden Evening Service – Dec. 4th,11th + 18th (Pie in Zoellner @5:30pm) **Service @6:00pm**