

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15th, 2024

During the advent season witnesses at the manger will light advent wreath as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

PRELUDE

My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

By Keith and Kristy Getty, Stuart Townend. Arr. by Larry Shackley. Copyright: 2011 Thankyou Music. CCLI# 5567894

Carol of the Bells

Ukrainian Bell Carol by M Leontovich. Arr. by Mark Hayes. Arrangement copyright: 2007 Lorenz Publishing Co .

Prepare Ye Bob Lebel & Steve Miller

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God of mercy,

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

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

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

P: 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 † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*” ELW 242 v.1,2,4
Words and music by Marty Haugen. Copyright: 1983 GIA Publications

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 loving kindness;
The thunder of His anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.*

3.

*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 every 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.

KYRIE (Tune of "Dona Nobis Pacem)

*Kyrie, Kyrie - Lord have mercy. Kyrie, Kyrie - Lord have mercy.
Kyrie, Kyrie - Christ have mercy. Kyrie, Kyrie - Christ have mercy.
Kyrie, Kyrie - Lord have mercy. Kyrie, Kyrie - Lord have mercy.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature and time signature. It provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

glo - ry to God in the high - est.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody includes a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

Peace be to you, peace be to me,

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody includes a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

The fourth system concludes the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody includes a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

Text: Marcus Veenstra; tr. composite

Music: GLORIA A DIOS, Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Text and music © Marcus Veenstra, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Let us pray.

C: **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Amen.**

FIRST READING *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC “*Glory (Let There Be Peace)*” Soloist: Steve Kemp

By Matt Maher, Rachel Taylor Popadic, Chris Stevens.

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SECOND READING *Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation on next page...

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We Are Waiting for Jesus



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
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P: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL READING *Luke 3:7-18*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do

likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN’S STORY TIME

We invite you to sing along when indicated

This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!

This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!

This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!

Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!

SERMON

Pastor Rebecca Truland

SERMON HYMN

“Canticle of the Turning”

ELW 723 v.1,2,3

Words by Rory Cooney, based on The Magnificat. Music: Irish Traditional. Copyright: 1990 GIA Publications

1.

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,

and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that You bring to the ones who wait.

You fixed Your sight on Your servant's plight, and my weakness You did not spurn,

So from east to west shall my name be blest.

Could the world be about to turn?

REFRAIN:

My heart shall sing of the day You bring. Let the fires of Your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

2.

*Though I am small, my God, my all, You work great things in me;
And Your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for You yearn,
You will show Your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. REFRAIN*

3.

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast;
God's mercy must de-liver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around! REFRAIN*

THE NICENE CREED

A: Let us confess our faith using the words of the creed.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS of the People

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: Merciful God

C: Receive our prayer

A: Help us to love our neighbors and to pray for their wholeness, strength and healing...

Diane DuMond

The family and loved ones of Carol deDreu

The family of David Coram (Barb Nies)

Colleen Richardson and her family on the occasion of her mother's passing

Morgan (Julie Yoder)

A: Merciful God

C: Receive our prayer

Please speak additional names aloud or silently in your heart

A: Merciful God

C: Receive our prayer

P: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Greet one another with a sign of peace as you feel comfortable)

OFFERING

P: Let us gather our tithes and offerings for the sake of serving God and our neighbors.

OFFERING MUSIC “Winter Snow” Soloist: Steve Kemp

Words and music by Audrey Assad. Copyright: 2009 River Oaks Music Publishing. CCLI# 5492031

Lyrics for your reflection

*You could've come like a mighty storm, with all the strength of a hurricane;
You could've come like a forest fire with the power of heaven in Your flame.
But You came like a winter snow - quiet, soft, and slow-
falling from the sky in the night to the earth below.*

*You could've swept in like a tidal wave, or in an ocean to ravish our hearts;
You could've come through like a roaring flood to wipe away the things we've scarred.
Oh, but You came like a winter snow - You were quiet, You were soft and slow;
falling from the sky, in the night to the earth below -*

*Your voice wasn't in a bush burning; no, Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind.
It was still.... it was small.... it was hidden....
You came like a winter snow - quiet, and soft, and slow -
falling from the sky in the night to the earth below.*

P: Creator God,

C: 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. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

(Communion provided offers wine and white grape juice as well as gluten-free wafers as an option. Please ask the Pastor for gluten-free wafers as needed. If you desire to receive a blessing, come forward with arms crossed. If you desire communion, come forward and extend your hands.)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give 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:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.**

Lamb of God on next page...

Lamb of God



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.

COMMUNION MUSIC *“When Love Was Born”* Soloist: Steve Kemp

By Stephanie Lewis, Bernie Herms, Mark Schultz

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless you and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Soon and Very Soon*
Words and music by Andrae Crouch (additional words B. Colbert)
Copyright: 1976 Crouch Music, Bud John songs. CCLI #11249

Verse 1.

*Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King!*

Verse 2.

*Emmanuel draws near, we are going to see the King,
Emmanuel draws near, we are going to see the King.
Emmanuel draws near, we are going to see the King,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King!*

Verse 3.

*He brings hope and peace, we are going to see the King,
He brings hope and peace, we are going to see the King.
He brings hope and peace, we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King!*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *How Great Our Joy*
Traditional German Melody. Arranged by Mary McDonald. Arr. copyright: 2009 Lorenz Publishing Co.