

SEEING



through a NEW lens

EPIPHANY SEASON

Advent Lutheran Church
8840 University City Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28213
(704) 549-1555

www.adventlu.org

January 16, 2022

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"Jesu" (Arr. Jim Brickman)

Annette Nolan

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We gather in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

L: Let us confess together.

C: God, we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness where we justify our actions and behaviors as if they were secret and hidden from you.

We become calloused by our apathy.

We become complicit by our silence.

We become co-opted by our desires.

But, your light of true freedom shines *even* in the darkness, calling us to a more excellent way.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: God has forgiven you all your sins in Jesus Christ and filled you with the power of the Holy Spirit. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God forever.

C: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Greeting

L: 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.

Prayer of Illumination

L: Let us pray. God of steadfast love, at the wedding in Cana your Son Jesus turned water into wine, surprising all who were there. Surprise us with your generous abundance. Into our emptiness, pour your grace and fill us to overflowing with the joy of your presence.

C: Amen.

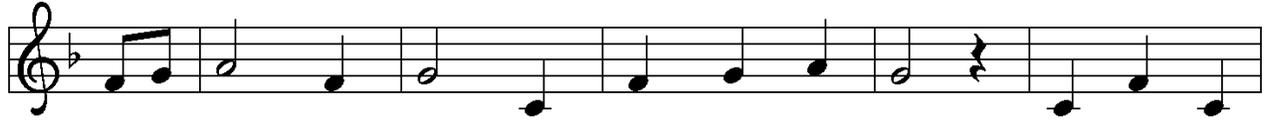
The First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Message

Song of the Day

“What Feast of Love”

Kristin Nysten



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

The Affirmation of Faith (*New Zealand Prayer Book*)⁺

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: God, as your people, we experience the hurts of this world – the prolonged struggles with coronavirus, the political and religious divisions, and the weightiness of injustice, poverty, conflict, and war – it feels as if the wine has given out and the jars are empty.

By your Holy Spirit, give us the eyes to see your signs grace, hope, forgiveness, and love; and prepare us to see that your astonishing divine generosity will turn war into peace, inequality into respect, cruelty into compassion, and despair into justice.

L: In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God, source of healing, we pray for family and friends who are undergoing tests, facing surgeries, and dealing with illness. As we speak their names, we bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power will bring comfort and restoration. Bless all that is being done for their recovery and answer our prayers as you see best.

⁺ *The New Zealand Prayer Book (created by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa) in 1989. This prayer book was celebrated by clergy and lay people alike for the way it combined the traditional Anglican prayers and forms of worship with the rich earth-based spirituality of the Maori and other Pacific Island cultures.*

L: We especially pray for:

- Val Allred
- Lemont Bell
- Marinell Bostian
- Steve Bowers
- Zoey Creasy
- Charliese Eichler
- Connie Erks
- Jack Forrest
- Ross Holshouser
- Donnell Horton
- Alyssa Jensen and family
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Andrew Milholland
- Leo Peeler
- Joyce Quigley
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- L. D. Shockley
- Gloria Strickert
- Leni Taite
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Herbert Watson
- Velia Watson
- Jack Wert
- Tona Wert
- Renate Wilson

L: And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now.

Time for the community to pray.

L: We pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Trina, Tony, Christin, Fred, Jonathan, Andrea, Larry, Jabori, Jessica, Jeffrey

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Wayne Bartch, died December 11th, former member of Advent
- Vickie McCombs, died January 5th, friend of the Via da Cristo community
- Patte Train, died December 28th, former member of Advent
- Amy Hill, died January 5th, friend of Connie Searing

L: By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

L: In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God, source of compassion, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially with the rapid rise of hospitalizations and the new surge of coronavirus infections. Strengthen and encourage them as they continue to serve and work on behalf of the health of our communities.

L: In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As we remember and celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. this weekend, we offer his prayer of hope for the church and for the world.

Lord, we thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children—Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow—will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God. (*Prayer by The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*)

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

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.**

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Franciscan Blessing

L: May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

"Joyful. Joyful We Adore Thee"

Kristin Nysten



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Dismissal

C: Thanks be to God.