

Be Born in Us



Advent Lutheran Church

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December 19, 2021

Pastoral Welcome

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Morning Chimes

Lighting the Advent Wreath

L: Into our world as into Mary’s womb . . .

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: Into the forgotten places as into the stable . . .

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope.

Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution.

Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest.

Into the lives of the complacent, bringing restlessness.

And into our lives . . . every moment . . . making our hearts Your Bethlehem.

C: Come, Lord Jesus and be born in us.

Gathering Song

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (vv.1-4)



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Advent Announcement

L: This is the good news: Christ is coming and blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

C: Therefore, come quickly, Lord. Amen.

Call to Worship

L: When the world was dark
and the city was quiet,
You came.

You crept in beside us.

And no one knew.

Only the few,
who dared to believe
that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Will you come into the darkness of the world,
not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,
but the fearful darkness
in which people have stopped believing
that war will end
or that famine will end,
or that a government will change
or that the Church cares?

Will you come into that darkness
and do something different
to save your people from death and despair?

Will you come into the quietness of this town,
not the friendly quietness
as when lovers hold hands,
but the fearful silence when
the phone has not rung
the letter has not come,
the friendly voice no longer speaks
the doctor’s face says it all?

Will you come into that darkness,
and do something different,
not to distract, but to embrace your people?
And will you come into the dark corners
and the quiet places of our lives?

(from *Cloth for the Cradle*, Iona Community)

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Merciful God,

C: We confess that we are not at peace with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart:

Discord in our families.

Deliberate ignorance of the suffering of others.

Violence in our world.

Our own conflicted hearts.

In your mercy, come to us, open our hearts, and reconnect us to one another and to you.

L: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace. Forgiveness that is stronger than our sins and love that heals every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: God has set you free from all your sins, so now go and prepare God's way with love. Amen.

"O Come, Little Children"

Advent Ringers

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.

L: Light looked down and saw darkness.

C: "I will go there," said Light.

L: Peace looked down and saw war.

C: "I will go there," said Peace.

L: Love looked down and saw hatred.

C: "I will go there," said Love.

L: So, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, and the King of Love came down and crept in beside us.

C: Amen.

Congregational Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vv.1-4)



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

The First Reading

Luke 1:46-55

Brooke Hibbeler

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Mary Pondering

Marvelous Dwanah

The Gospel Acclamation

"Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us revealed in us,

His name is called Emmanuel.

CCLI Song # 12949 Bob McGee

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The Message

“Be Born in Me”

Ladies Chorus

Prayers of the Faithful

L: God, our beginning and our end, we confess to you that we live in a world that needs your mercy now more than ever. As we celebrate joyfully in anticipation of your coming Son, we recognize that joy does not come as easily to everyone. So, with the joyful and the heavy-hearted, we lift our prayers to you.

A brief silence.

L: God, as we move closer to the end of our Advent journey, may we wait with Mary’s joyful anticipation as we prepare to welcome your Son, our Savior, into our lives and into the world. Gather us, guide us, and keep us as your people. Send us into the world that Christ’s hands might be our own, as we work for justice and peace in all the earth.

L: Come Lord Jesus

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God, our source of compassion, 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.

We especially pray for:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Val Allred | ▪ Vickie McCombs |
| ▪ Lemont Bell | ▪ Trey O’Quinn |
| ▪ Marinell Bostian | ▪ Leo Peeler |
| ▪ Steve Bowers | ▪ Joyce Quigley |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Shannon Roberson |
| ▪ Gary Emblar | ▪ Richard Schulz |
| ▪ Connie Erks | ▪ L. D. Shockley |
| ▪ Amy Hill | ▪ Leni Taite |
| ▪ Donnell Horton | ▪ David Townsend |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz | ▪ Laura Tucker |
| ▪ John Lewis | ▪ Herbert Watson |
| ▪ Susan Lewis | ▪ Velia Watson |
| ▪ Ray Matthews | ▪ 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: Christin, Shank, Nancy, Patrick, Larry, Jamarian, Kimberly, Donnell, Len, Thobour.

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

- Veronica Caldwell Jordan, sister of Tim Caldwell, who died on December 11.
- Mark Navtaril, stepfather of Tony Poovey, died December 13.
- Calvin Roberson, member, died on December 15.

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: We give thanks for the marriage of Jim Hintz and Mercedes Aragón on December 18th.

We give thanks for the marriage of Meredith Allen and Zach Campbell on December 18th.

L: Come Lord Jesus

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God, our protector and our guide, your Holy Spirit is our companion wherever we go. During this holiday season, watch over all who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to the places they travel and bless their return home.

L: Come Lord Jesus

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God, you came into this world as a fragile child – crying in the night for your mother’s comfort, hungering for the nourishment of milk, and needing the swaddling of warmth. We pin our hopes on you, the Word made flesh, as we offer our prayers to you, those spoken and those still unknown to us. Give us peace to trust you with the timing and the answers you provide.

C: Come, Lord Jesus and be born in us. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

“Joseph’s Lullaby”

Sanctuary Singers
Daniel Pietruszka, soloist

*This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence living in me
And I . . . I'm desperate for you
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

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.

*This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me
And I . . . I'm desperate for you
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

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.

*This is the living Lord
This is the living Lord
Your very blood given for me
And I . . . I'm desperate for you
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

*This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe*

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.

Post-Communion Blessing

L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Advent Blessing

L: God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and suffering ones, the angels in heaven, and the child in the womb,

C: Pour out your blessing upon us, your good word for our hearts, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your company. Amen.

"Come, Shepherds, Rise!"

Advanced Bells

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God