

SEEING



through a NEW lens

EPIPHANY SEASON

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

www.adventlu.org

February 6, 2022

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Advance Bells

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: Lord Jesus, you call us as you walk the shorelines and wander the sidewalks of our world, inviting us to set sail from our safe harbors into the uncharted waters of faith; to step off from our predictable paths to follow you into the new world of your Kingdom; to leave the comfort of our homes and to accompany you into the uncomfortable places we usually avoid. As we follow you, let your hope be our anchor, your peace be our rock, and your grace our everlasting refuge.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

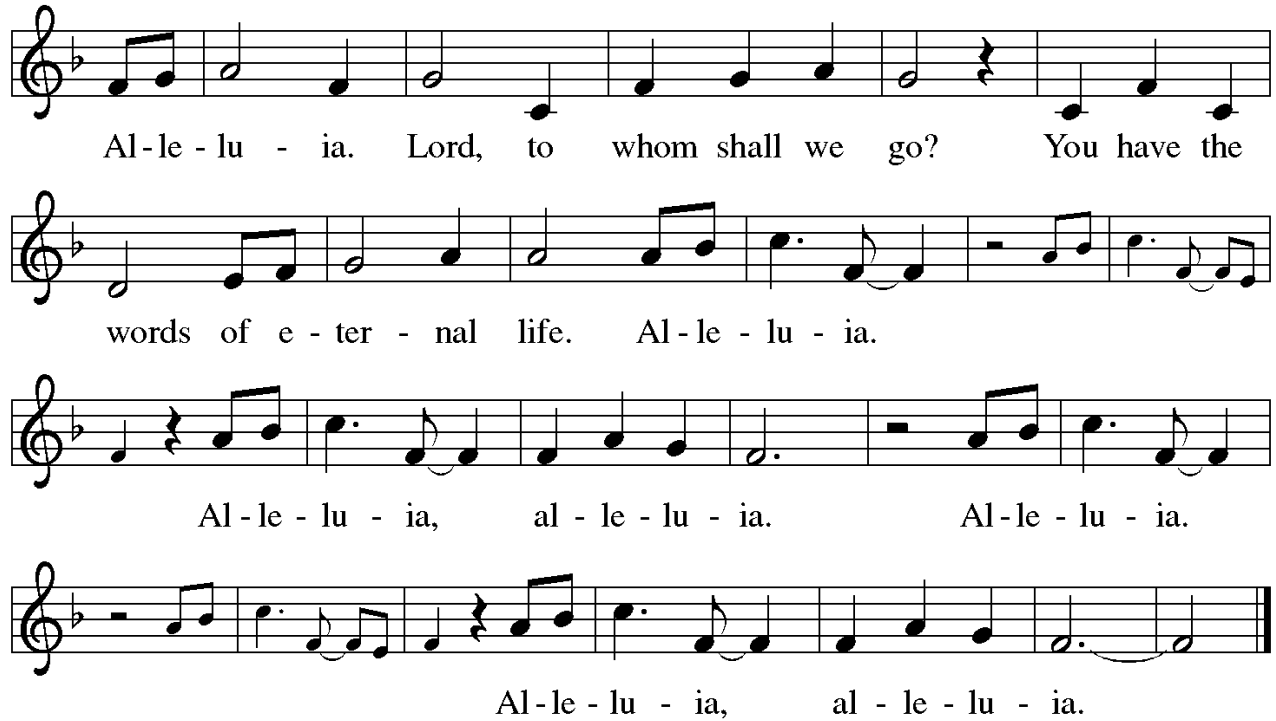
Isaiah 6:1-8

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation

Carol Riddell



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

“Here I Am, Lord”

Carol Riddell



1 “I, the Lord of sea and sky,	I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 “I, the Lord of snow and rain,	I have borne my peo - ple’s pain.
3 “I, the Lord of wind and flame,	I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin	my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them.	They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them.	My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night,	I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone,	give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide	till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them?	Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them.	Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them.	Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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: Gracious God, you are the One who makes extravagant promises. We relish your great promises of fidelity and presence and solidarity, and we exude in them. Only to find out, always too late, that your promise always comes in the midst of a hard, deep call to obedience.

You are the God who calls people like us, and the long list of mothers and fathers before us, who trusted the promise enough to keep the call.

So, we give you thanks that you are a calling God, who calls always to dangerous new places. We pray enough of your grace and mercy among us that we may be among those who believe your promises enough to respond to your call. ⁺

A brief silence.

⁺ *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.*

⁺ Written by Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth.*

L: Gracious God, we pray this day:
for all who have a song they cannot sing,
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,
for all who live in chains they cannot break,
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,
for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,
for those who live in hunger
and for those who will not share their bread,
for those who are misunderstood,
and for those who misunderstand,
for those who are captives
and for those who are captors,
for those whose words of love
are locked within their hearts
and for those who yearn to hear those words.
Have mercy upon these, God.
Have mercy on us all.⁺

L: Gracious God,

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.

L: We especially pray for:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Val Allred | ▪ Ray Matthews |
| ▪ Lemont Bell | ▪ Andrew Milholland |
| ▪ Steve Bowers | ▪ Dave Miller |
| ▪ Ida Chisolm | ▪ Daoud & Dahare Nassar |
| ▪ Rajiv & Ashish Choudhrie | ▪ Donna Parrish |
| ▪ Tommy Currin | ▪ Leo Peeler |
| ▪ Seena Drapala | ▪ Joyce Quigley |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Shannon Roberson |
| ▪ Ross Holshouser | ▪ Richard Schulz |
| ▪ Donnell Horton | ▪ L. D. Shockley |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz | ▪ Isabella Strickert |

⁺ (Source: Ann Weems from "Kneeling in Jerusalem," quoted in "Greeting the Day – Morning Prayers and Meditations from Around the World," edited by Brian Wright)

- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Herbert Watson
- Velia Watson
- 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: Demarkas, Aleisha, Skicylene, Carol, Earnest, Steven, Edwin, Debra, Ashley, Aquavarius, Anais, Camille

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

- James Chisolm, member of Advent, who died January 17

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: Gracious God,

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: Gracious God,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, you have called us through the goodness of your grace to be your hands and do your work, to be your voice and share your words, to bring healing to a fallen world and wholeness to broken lives. Let your light shine through us and light the path for others, so that all may experience your love and share in the joy of your Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

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

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.**

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
 The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
 to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
 The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
 to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
 that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
 Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Dismissal

- L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**