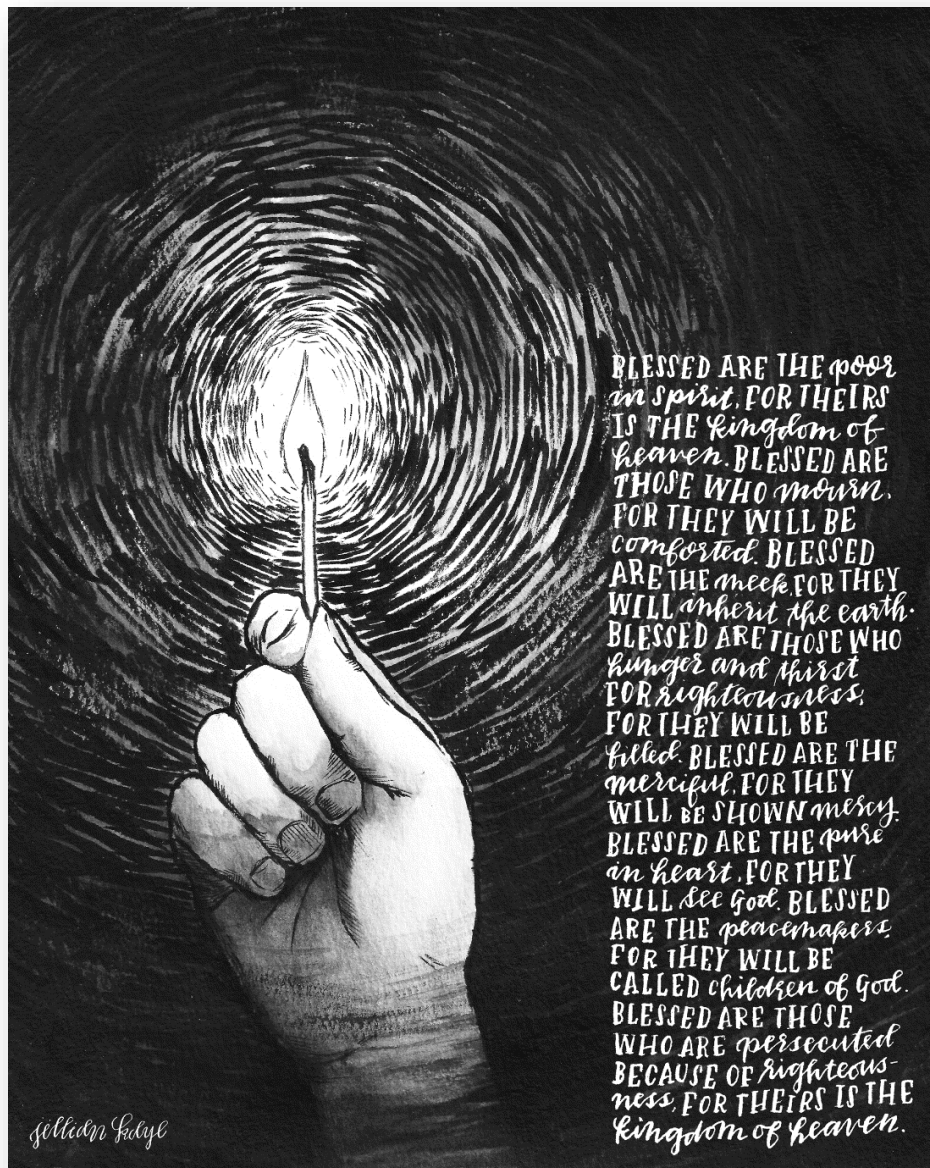


Season of Epiphany



January 15, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church

8840 University City Blvd

Charlotte, NC 28213

(704) 549-1555

www.adventlu.org

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"You Are My Hiding Place"

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. Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, your first words were not a declaration, but a question. A question asked to two curious disciples, "What are you looking for?"

A question asked of us, "What are you looking for?"

We may not have a definitive answer or even know what we seek, but your gracious invitation always follows, "Come and See."

Open our hearts to trust you and give us courage to follow.

By Your Spirit support us in our journey, so that like John, our words and deeds will point to you, Lamb of God, and our lives will guide others to your places where you have promised to be present.

For those who are suffering, may the comfort we offer be a sign of your presence.
For those who are hungry, may the bread we offer be a sign of your presence.
For those in the grip of despair, may the hope we provide be a sign of your presence.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

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 Holy Scripture

John 1:29-42

The Message

Song of the Day

ELW #336 "Lamb of God" (Your Only Son)

Verse 1

Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Chorus

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in Your precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Verse 2

Your gift of love they crucified
We laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King we named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God

Chorus

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in Your precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Verse 3

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God

Chorus

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in Your precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

CCLI Song # 16787 Twila Paris

Native American Creed⁺

I believe in God, Creator of our unique native languages,
Who gifted us this identity as a distinct people through our native tongues,
so that our native spiritual leaders could relay God's love to our native people who
could not understand that foreign tongue called English.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our relative,
Who talked of us when he said,

"I have other sheep out there, besides those I have here."

I believe in Jesus Christ who knew the pain of our native people who were forced
from their homeland and had no place to lay their head.

I believe in Jesus Christ as our Chief Cornerstone as we begin to build a new
generation of native spiritual leaders.

I believe in Jesus Christ who does not say "goodbye"
in any language, but says, "I will come again."

⁺ *The Native American Creed was written by the Rev. Roger Scott who is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.*

I believe in the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire lighting upon our native people to witness to their people and to the world, through the native song and dance.

I believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and the driving force for our native people to do a new thing as we walk a new journey, toward perfection for all humankind.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Jesus, Lamb of God, when curious disciples asked you where you lived, you said "*Come and see.*" Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.

C: May we find space, and may we make space.

L: Jesus, you are close to those searching for homes or lack affordable housing in our city, because you, too, searched for home. You found home with your friends. We pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Willie, Carol, Albert, Sherrill, Terra, Selbrani, Annie, Jimmy, Christopher, and Lawrence. Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.

C: May we find space, and may we make space.

L: Jesus you are close to those who face persecution and oppression through conflict and war, injustice and inequality, discrimination and racism. You, too, faced persecution and walked with those who were oppressed. We pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who have openly resisted the invasion of their country for over 10 months and who have sacrificed so much for the cause of independence. We pray for all women and girls who continue to speak out for their rights in Iran, Afghanistan, and other communities where their voices have been silenced. We also pray for the countries of Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Israel-Palestine, Haiti and Myanmar. Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.

C: May we find space, and may we make space.

L: Jesus, you are close to those who are need of healing and those who are recovering from illness and surgery. You spent your ministry restoring many to health and bringing comfort to those suffering. Bless all that is being done for the health of those for whom we pray.

L: We especially pray for:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ▪ Larry Cartin | ▪ Carol Hollingsworth |
| ▪ Terence Connelly | ▪ Gary Homesley |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Donnell Horton |
| ▪ Edith Frisina | ▪ Marc Jensen |
| ▪ Vincent Frisina Sr. | ▪ Bob Keen |
| ▪ Dwight Hartsell | ▪ Ashley King |
| ▪ Ann Hess | ▪ Waylon Kuklantz |
| ▪ Bernie Hess | ▪ LouAnn & Allen Lamb |

- Kevin Middleton
- Ron Middleton
- Jane Ogilvie
- Joyce Quigley
- Denny Refsnider
- Carol Schierlmann
- Michael Searing
- Ron Stemple
- David Townsend

- Laura Tucker
- Michelle Veit
- Augustin Villacis
- Laverne Waskielis
- Herbert Watson
- Renate Wilson
- Chuck Wolfe

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

Time for the community to pray.

L: Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.

C: May we find space, and may we make space.

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

SHARING THE MEAL

Offering

(Please sign and pass the pew pads)

Offertory Song

“Psalm 30”

Sanctuary Singers

Table Prayer

L: God of grace, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. By your very breath you give us life and by your hand you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.

C: Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world living signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

*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 *(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.**

Sending Song

ELW #720 *"We Are Called"*

Verse 1

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom
To live in the freedom of the city of God!

Chorus

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

Verse 2

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Chorus

Verse 3

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love

Chorus

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**