

LIVING AS



HE LOVED

PENTECOST SEASON

July 3, 2022

Advent Lutheran Church

8840 University City Blvd., Charlotte, North Carolina 28213

Phone: 704-549-1555 Website: www.adventlu.org

“Love God, Serve Neighbor”

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Call to Worship

(inspired by Psalm 66)

L: Come and see the works of God,

C: God's awesome deeds among us.

L: Come and hear the words of God,

C: God's still-speaking voice in our weary world.

L: Come and touch the sacred, extraordinary in the ordinary,

C: God's presence in water, word, and wine.

Prelude

"America the Beautiful"

Annette Nolan

A Litany for Independence Day

L: As we remember the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

Silence.

L: For the indigenous peoples who have inhabited this land for generation upon generation and who have called this land the "Chosen Spot"

C: We thank you God.

L: For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,

C: We thank you God.

L: For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

C: We thank you God.

L: For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

C: We thank you God.

L: For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,

C: We thank you God.

L: For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,

C: We thank you God.

L: For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,

C: We thank you God.

L: For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,

C: We thank you God.

L: For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

C: We thank you God.

L: Gracious God, we pray for the United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray that we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: On this Independence Day weekend, we prayerfully acknowledge the reality that the land we *now* call home and the freedoms we cherish have come at the cost – of pain and death, loss and sadness, and humiliation and exile – to the indigenous peoples who were the first stewards of this land, the first people who offered the first prayers and sang the first songs into the very soil under our feet.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As we seek healing and justice for our indigenous brothers and sisters, we pray that we will seek opportunities to better understand their story, honor their traditions, and care for the resources of the earth, so that future generations may continue to call this land the “Chosen Spot.”

C: Hear our prayer.

L: On this Independence Day weekend, we prayerfully acknowledge the reality that not all came to the country seeking freedom, but were brought in bondage, forced into slavery and demeaned and thought of less-than because of their darker hue.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For the descendants of those enslaved, we pray that we might find ways to understand their story, as we continue to work for equity and justice for all people.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray that those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Gracious God, as we give thanks for our country and celebrate the freedoms we have, we also pray for all nations throughout the world. On this Independence Day weekend, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Proclaiming the Word

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
That we may live out . . . truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

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

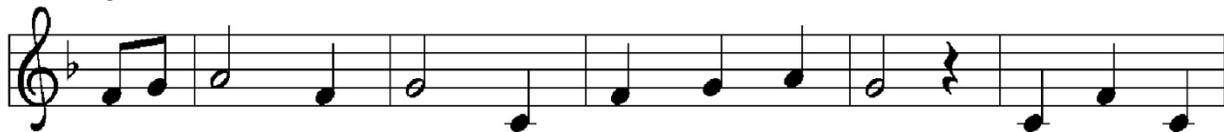
L: Let us pray. Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit, make our hearts a home for your word, and our minds a realm for your wisdom, so that our lives will continue to be your dwelling place, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 66:10-14

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 Gospel

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

The Message



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God is present,
 In the darkness before dawn,
 In the waiting and uncertainty,
 Where conflict and caring link arms,
 Where fear and courage join hands.

We believe in a God who is with us,
Who sits down in our midst
To share our humanity.

We affirm a faith
That takes us beyond a safe place:
Into action, into vulnerability,
And into the places of deepest need.

We commit ourselves to work for change
And to put ourselves on the line.
To bear responsibility, to take risks,
And to face humiliation.
To stand with those on the edge,
to choose life and
to be a community of hope for all people.
Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, give us courage to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We know all too well that the world outside these walls can be challenging, and yet it is in the world that we are called to go, to live the good news, to act with justice, and to be messengers of peace. When we are received with graciousness, may we rejoice with humility; and when we are rejected with indifference, may we persevere with hope. In all that we do and say, may we live lives of love and mercy, so that our families, our communities, and the world will see the life of Christ within us.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, we pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world. We pray that everywhere upon this earth there may be justice and peace. We continue to pray for the country and the people of Ukraine as the war now enters its fifth month.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, we pray for all people in their daily life and work — for our families, friends, neighbors, and for those who are sick in the hospital or ill at home. Give them hope, that they may feel through your presence, and the presence of others, comfort and support. Hear us now as we lift up those people and those situations you have placed upon our hearts.

We especially pray for:

- Denise Bowman
- Jim Carney
- Helen & Jim Cheyney
- Terence Connelly
- Charliese Eichler
- Linda Holden
- Donnell Horton
- John & Jasmin Kivett
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Kevin Middleton
- Andrew Milholland
- Leo Peeler
- Joyce Quigley
- Chris Rasmussen
- Joyce Reed
- Denny Refsnider
- Stephanie Rizzo
- L. D. Shockley
- Reponda Smith
- Kelly Taylor
- Joshua Thrower
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Herbert Watson
- Lisa Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name.

(Time for the community to pray.)

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

- Donnie Boone, uncle of Scott Evans, died June 8
- Dave Goff, friend of Gerry Osborne, died June 10
- David Goode, friend of Harriett Easley, died June 13

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 thanksgiving at the birth of Brynlee Ann Swing, born June 19, new granddaughter of Steve and Carol Swing.

L: In thanksgiving at the birth of Advika Rose Watson, born June 24, new granddaughter of Velia Watson.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, we offer these 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. We ask all these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Offering

(Please sign and pass the pew pads)

Offertory Song

"I Am the Bread of Life"

Annette Nolan

Table Prayer

L: The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Jesus became fully human. So come to the table, all who have much faith and all who would like to have more; all who have been here often and all who have not been in a long time; all who have tried to follow Jesus, and all who have fallen short. Come. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

C: Amen.

The Words of Institution

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.**

The Blessing

L: 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

Benediction

L: May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice and peace.
May you know the support of family, friends, and people who feel as passionately about the world as you do.
May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses, who through the ages, did God's work and prayed for the coming of the Kingdom.
May you never feel alone.
And if you do, may you carry in your heart the words of Jesus, who told his friends: "I am with you always."

C: **Amen.**

Video Clip *MLK, Jr. "I Have a Dream/My Country, 'Tis of Thee"*

Sending Song *"My Country, 'Tis of Thee"* Annette Nolan

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!

Our fathers' God to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God our King.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**