



**THOSE
WHO
HOPE**

PREPARE THE WAY

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

December 6, 2020

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“Ukrainian Bell Carol”

Advanced Bells

Pastoral Welcome

Call to Worship for Advent Season

L: Hope is gravity for the broken—

C: Pulling us up.

L: Hope is manna in the wilderness

C: When we want to give up.

L: Hope is seeing stars in the city

C: When we forget the sky is there.

L: Hope is the anthem of faith.

C: And the reason we’re here.

L: So, come to this place with your hopes and your fears,

C: For the God of new life is drawing near.

L: Let us worship our Holy God.

(written by Sarah Are from sanctifiedart.org)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: God of time and God of eternity

C: For you we wait.

L: God of the universe and God closer than we can imagine

C: For you we wait.

L: God of roaring sea and God of silence

C: For you we wait.

L: In our homes, classrooms, places of work and in the world,

C: For you we wait.

L: In this place and in this time

C: For you we wait.

L: This morning we light the candle of PEACE.

(Light 2ND Advent Candle)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: **Amen.**

L: Trusting in Jesus Christ, who came to share our humanity and bring light to this broken world, let us come before God without fear to make our confession.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination).

L: God of all creation,

C: **We have hidden the gift of your light behind our selfishness and fears, so that the world strains to see you in our lives. We have lived lives of apathy against your love. We have built walls to protect our own needs and to keep others out. We have shut our ears to cries of those in need. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us and free us to live expectantly for your return. Amen.**

L: God’s love for us is greater than all our sins. Hear and believe the good news that all your sins have been forgiven and rejoice in the gift of God’s light that illuminates us, so that we shine forth the brilliance of God’s love for the world.

C: **Amen**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Holy God, we have pulled out the Advent wreath, set up the Christmas tree, and purchased the poinsettias. We have dusted off the Advent hymns, unsung for a year, and unearthed the words of your prophets—Isaiah and John the Baptist.

Yet, in your eyes, these efforts are for nothing without the regular, persistent, and deep pursuit of justice for all people. Our efforts are hollow without consistent work toward peace, reconciliation, and participation in your mission for creation.

In our hearts, we do long to be your people, to carry out your mission, to be light in the darkness—proof that no darkness can overcome your truth.

So, awaken us to action. Stir us to courage. Empower us to be your hands and feet as we prepare a way in the wilderness for your coming, clearing the road of the obstacles of oppression, racism, injustice, and hopelessness—so that all may see your light and perceive your coming. All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the One *for* whom we wait and the One *in* whom we wait. Amen.

(adpt. prayer written by lutheranjulia and posted on RevGalBlogPals.)

The First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Gospel Acclamation

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The lyrics are: "Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, his name is called Em - man - u - el; God with us, re - vealed in us; his name is called Em - man - u - el." The chord symbols are: C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat for the first staff; A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, G/B, C for the second staff; C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat for the third staff; A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, F/C, C for the fourth staff.

The Holy Scripture

Mark 1:1-8

The Message

Pastor Ward Misenheimer



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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, you are always with us in the desert places in which we find ourselves; in the streets in which we live and work; and in those we meet along the paths of life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, guide our feet and take us to the places where you would go. Give us the words that you would use, so that in this Advent season of promise and preparation, we might join John the Baptist as we prepare the way for your arrival. Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

L: God of all compassion, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for

- Lemont Bell
- Paul Coleman
- Dallas Collins
- Michael Eleazer
- William Ensley
- Emma Fettig
- Eileen Folkert
- Susan Goerke
- Colleen Graven
- Cindy Henderson
- Claude Ingolia
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Bobbi Larson
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Dick Moser
- Tyler Oddman
- Leo Peeler
- Barney Quigley
- Richard Schulz
- Kirby Strickland
- Mary Faith Strickland
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).

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

- Betty Ingolia, aunt of Claude Ingolia
- Freda Christ, member and mother of Peter & Mary Christ and John & Russie Christ
- Grady Leopard, grandfather of Sandy Torrence
- Clyde Mullis, brother-in-law of Dwight Hartsell
- Fred Lichtenstadter, father of Kristin Basilice
- Bobby Short, uncle of Caroline Bunn

. . . 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 Christ Jesus.

L: We give thanks for the birth of London Kathleen Rose Basilice, daughter of Trevor Basilice & Faith and granddaughter of John & Kristen Basilice.

L: Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord of all healing and care, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience, worry, and dread, as we hunger for life to be normal again. Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

L: God, our beginning and our end, as wait for the coming of your Son, may our waiting be filled with hope, knowing that your light shines in the darkness. May our waiting be filled peace, believing that one day your peace will fill our world. May our waiting be filled with joy, proclaiming the good news of your birth. May our waiting be filled with love, reminding the world – that needs your mercy now more than ever – that you are our beginning and our end. **Amen.**

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.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

(A Holy Land Blessing, Father Potter of Peckham)

L: May the babe of Bethlehem bring you peace.
May the child of Nazareth bring you joy.
May the man of Galilee bring you strength.
May the Christ of Calvary bring your courage.
May Risen Jesus bring you hope and
May the ascended Christ a foretaste of his glory.

C: Amen

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

“Wassail, Wassail” (Mannheim Steamroller)

Annette Nolan

