



Those
Who
Hope
Make
Christ
Known

Advent Lutheran Church
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January 3, 2021

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“We Three Kings”

Annette Nolan

Pastoral Welcome

Call to Worship for Second Sunday of Christmas

L: A new year has dawned; the old is past and gone.

C: This is a time for beginnings, a time to encounter God anew.

L: God of the future who is always ahead of us, we are here to thank you.

C: God of the present here in our midst, we are here to trust you.

L: God of life within us, we are here to praise you, and to rejoice in your glorious love.

Song

“Away in a Manger”

Advanced Bells

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: God, the darkness loves to parade itself,
to draw our attention and steal our energy,
with fearful threats and dire prophecies of doom.

C: We all too easily give it just what it seeks.

L: But, if we can just drag our gaze away, we discover
that there is another reality –

C: that your light shines undimmed,

L: that your care is undiminished,

C: that your strength and protection are unfailing.

L: So, even in the midst of pain and suffering,

**C: And even when it seems your light is almost out,
we choose to remain under the shadow of your wings,**

L: to trust in your salvation, to speak your words,
and to remember that you are the light of the world
of which no darkness can overcome. Amen.

“Hope and Expectation” (from *Appalachian Winter*)

Rob Beyersdorf

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. God remind us:
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.
Amen.

(Source: Howard Thurman)

The First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

The Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation is written on four staves in a 4/4 time signature. 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 on the first staff; A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, G/B, C on the second staff; C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat on the third staff; A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, F/C, C on the fourth staff.



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

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 the birth of your Son, Jesus, 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: Loving God, you broke down the barriers when you crept in beside us on that first Christmas. In Jesus, your hands touched all humanity. You opened eyes to see, liberated tongues to give praise, freed the captives to share the good news, and fed the empty with bread from heaven. In the company of the neighbor whom we know and the stranger in our midst, and the self from whom we turn, fill us with your Spirit so that might love as Jesus loves. 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

- Trevor Basilice & Faith Hunt
- Lemont Bell
- Bethann Bluder
- Cannon family – Jennifer, Toney, and Taylor
- Marie Cochran
- Paul Coleman
- Deborah Dubose
- Inez Easley
- William Ensley
- Emma Fettig
- Eileen Folkerth
- Mary Jo Gouge
- Colleen Graven
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Dick Moser
- JL and Faith Moser
- Tyler Oddman
- Anita Ortiz
- Leo Peeler
- Richard Schulz
- Lee Stephens
- 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. 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: 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. We are grateful for the development of a vaccine and for those who are assisting in making it available. 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 celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus, may our hearts be filled with hope, knowing that your light shines in the darkness. May our hearts be filled with peace, believing that one day your peace will fill our world. May our hearts be filled with joy, proclaiming the good news of your birth. May our hearts 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 (Song of Simeon)

L: Lord, now let your servants go in peace.
Your word has been fulfilled.
Our own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
A light to the reveal you to the nations and
The glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

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

Sending Song

“Carol of the Bells”

Annette Nolan