

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"People, Look East"

arr. Mary McDonald

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Prepare the Royal Highway"

arr. John Ferguson, 1983

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let every hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mack Family

Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

(lighting of the candle)

Reader 2: For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***Hymn**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#113

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there was no justice. We live in fear, as though there was no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” (v. 5)

#99

Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant supports those in distress, re -

mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

Text: Miriam Therese Winter, 1979; rev. 1987
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Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Choir Anthem “Creator of the Stars of Night” arr. Dale Wood, 1965

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, thou Savior of us all,
We pray thee, hear us when we call.

At thy great name O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
And things celestial thee shall own,
Of things terrestrial, Lord. alone.

To thee the travail deep was known
That made the whole creation groan
Till thou, Redeemer, shouldst free
Thine own in glorious liberty.

And when the world drew on to toward night,
Thou camest not, in splendor bright,
As monarch, but the humble child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

Come in thy holy might, we pray;
Redeem us for eternal day
From every power of darkness free
To live with thee eternally.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 21:5-19

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Hope in the Midst of Despair”

Rev. Désirée Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

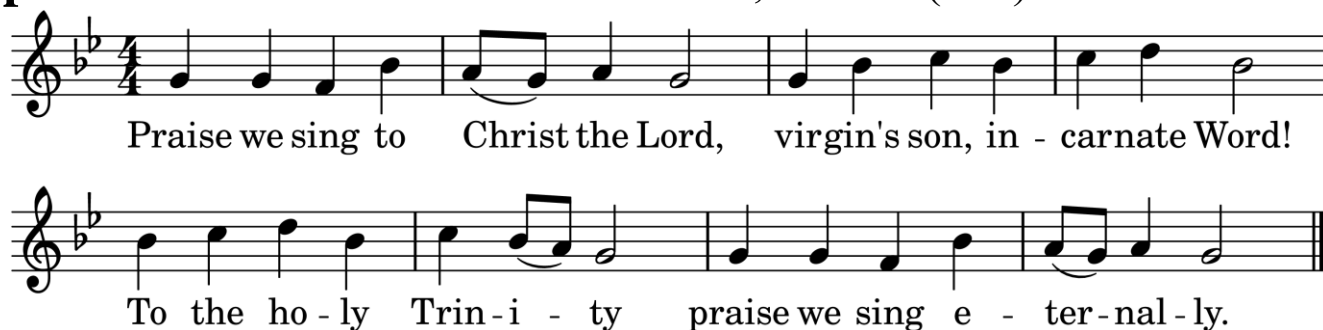
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Invitation to Offering

*Response

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 4)

#102



Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, in - carnate Word!
To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
English trans. stanza 4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
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*Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

*Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

People: And may you see the God of hope with you.

Leader: Open wide our anxious hearts!

People: We open them to God's peace.

Leader: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

People: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.

*Hymn of Invitation “The Days Are Surely Coming”

#357

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us. Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit; may your light so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. Amen.

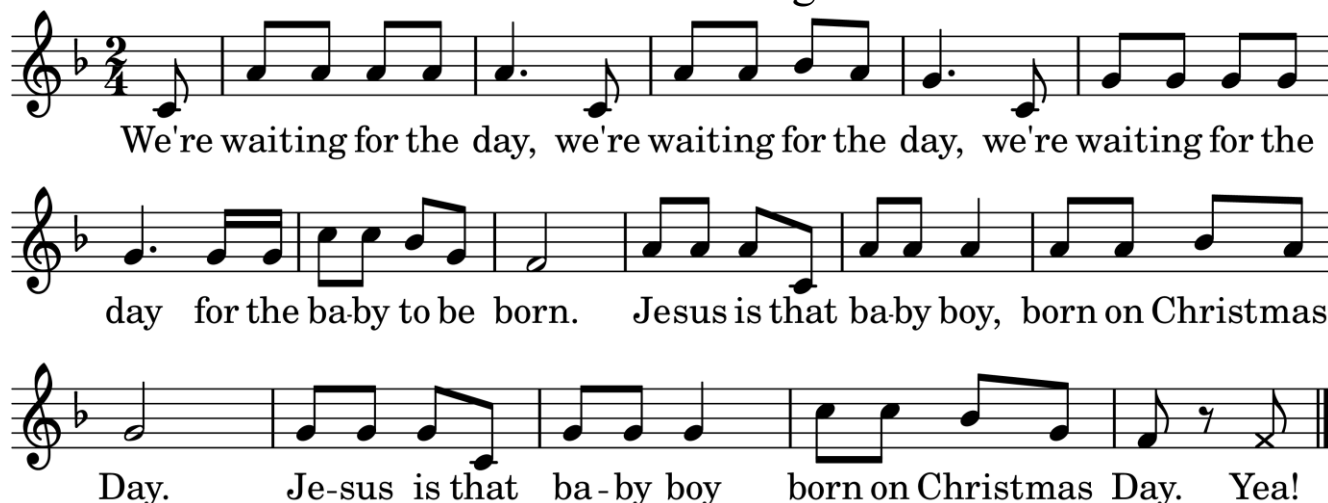
The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #834

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

"Advent Song"



We're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the
day for the ba-by to be born. Jesus is that ba-by boy, born on Christmas
Day. Je-sus is that ba-by boy born on Christmas Day. Yea!

Words and Music: Thomas & Joyce Lloyd

*Postlude "Lift Up Your Heads" arr. David Paxton

Pastors: Rev. Désirée Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Joyce Lloyd

Joyce Lloyd and her husband, Tom, moved from Pittsburgh, PA to London, OH in 1974. They had just graduated from college and were newlyweds. Joyce and Tom were anxious to start their new life together and to start new jobs. London turned out to be a very welcoming town. They were able to find new friends and a new church family.

Joyce has a twin sister, an older sister, and an older brother, who live across the US, giving them a chance to visit some beautiful cities. Joyce is fortunate to have her brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Margaret, living nearby.

Retirement is the best job Joyce has ever had, allowing her to enjoy more time with Tom, their dog, Sasha, and their cat, Meow Mix. Even in retirement there never seems to be enough time to be involved in as many volunteer projects as she would like. Joyce enjoys her time with friends, and being outside walking the dog or working in the yard. Goal in life: “Make me an instrument of your peace.”