

# Bulletin

November 29, 2020 First Sunday of Advent (on-line worship service)

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PASTORAL GREETING

### VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRELUDE “*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*” Setting by Roberta Rowland-Raybold

### RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Chris, Sage, Amelia, and Oliver Gerling  
We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in the days to come...

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;  
**nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN “*Joy to the World*” #134

Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

CALL TO WORSHIP Lauren and Taylor Champlin

In every season of life,

**God is always with us, even when we believe otherwise.**

In this season of waiting,

**Jesus reminds us that Bethlehem is the beginning of our discipleship, not the end of the journey**

In this season of Advent anticipation and hope,

**the Spirit opens our ears to the songs of the angels.**

HYMN “*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*” #82

Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.***

***Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts along;  
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.***

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lauren and Taylor Champlin

Holy God of Advent, you come near to us, yet we continue to seal our hearts with indifference to a suffering world. Tear open our hearts, and make us more compassionate. You approach us with bundles of mercy to kindle our hope, but we continue to build our lives with the bricks of bitterness. Tear open our anger, so that we might become more forgiving. God, have mercy; Jesus, fill us with your grace; Holy Spirit, shine through our lives. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### *"My Soul Doth Magnify The Lord"*

by Verna Hatch // copyright Harold Flammer  
soloist, Chris Wertman – soprano

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded the low estate of His handmaid:  
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name;  
And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.  
He hath shewed forth His strength with His arm;  
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He sent empty away.  
He hath helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy;  
As He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to His seed forever.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kathy Breese

Eternal God, through long generations you have prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Old Testament - Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

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From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

## **Epistle Reading – 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **RESPONSE**

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Thanks be to God.  
(Deut. 6:6)

## **SERMON**

## **MORNING PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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HYMN

***“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”***

#97

Music: Joseph Parry, 1876

Text: John Bowrig, 1825, alt.

***Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.***

***Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.***

***Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.<sup>3</sup>  
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!***

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

***“Hark! The Glad Sound!”***

Setting by William Henry Monk