

Worship in Advent 2020 ~ A Weary World Rejoices

Gathering

Advent begins our church year, an active season of hopeful anticipation. Draped in blue with hints of the coming season's brightness, Advent opens the year of grace proclaiming God's salvation breaking into time and our human story. Salvation history is full of people who tried to rush God's promises, who tried to un-wait God's time, pretty much with disastrous results.

Then John came baptizing and proclaiming: 'Repent, be baptized!' And they came. But that wasn't the end. 'Wait, and watch: He's coming!' John waited, waited doing what God called him to do. John was faithful to the promise in proclaiming, by waiting in active obedience. He spoke hope to a weary world. He speaks hope to us!

Welcome to our first streamed worship service as we begin Advent, and a new church year. Our hope is that coming together this way will gather our hearts and voices together even as we are sheltering each in our own way, showing love of our neighbor. All technology cooperating the service will be lived streamed at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings and posted afterward to the website and facebook for those unable to join us on Zoom.

KYRIE

O Lord, have mercy and come to us. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Wisdom, proceeding from the heart of the Most High, guiding creation with power and love:
Come and teach us the way of knowledge.

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush
and gave the Law:

Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute,
to whom the nations will come in homage:

Come quickly to deliver us.

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

O Lord, have mercy and come to us. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of our Baptism.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.
and blessed be His kingdom, now and forever!

As we look to the advent of Christ, let us draw near to God with willing hearts,
confessing our sin before God and one other.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

We confess we are distracted, anxious and weary.

Yet we have not made time to seek your peace and light.

We have failed to do justice; we have not been Christ to one another.

We confess our sin and need to you, Lord, and we pray:

Have mercy! Open our hearts to your advent in our lives,

**Strengthen us to walk in hope,
seek justice and peace for our families, our community,
and the world. Come, Lord Jesus!**

In the mercy of almighty God, and by his authority, I tell you your sins are forgiven. May you know joy in the Savior's coming, in the Name of the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray... *Silence for Reflection*

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our journey as we make ready for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
may Christ, the true light, shine on your people
and free us from the power of sin and death.
Grant this through Christ, whose coming is certain
and whose day draws near. **Amen!**

The Word

The first reading is from Baruch, the chapter. Baruch 5:1–9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.
²Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
³for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.
⁴For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."
⁵Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
⁷For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
⁸The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
⁹For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Baruch 5:1–9

Silence for Reflection

Cindy, please remove the chanting notations!

Psalm 80 is read responsively by verse:

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD| God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R
⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. Amen.**

Silence for Reflection

The second reading is from 2nd Peter, the third chapter.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: To the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night...So what kind of people should you be? You should live holy lives and serve God, ¹² as you wait for and look forward to the coming of the day of God. When that day comes, the skies will be destroyed with fire, and everything in them will melt with heat. ¹³ But God made a promise to us, and we are waiting for a new heaven and a new earth where goodness lives.

¹⁴ Dear friends, since you are waiting for this to happen, do your best to be live without sin, walking in God's way, at peace with Him. ¹⁵ Remember that we are saved because our Lord is patient.

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

(2 Peter 3:8-15)

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,

The glory of our God shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Teaching the Word (Sermon)

Reflection

Hearing the Word is followed by a time for reflection and meditation.

Let us pray: All we call our own are gifts of Your mercy and love.

**May these offerings be a symbol of our whole lives,
given with grateful hearts to become a blessing to others.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Emmanuel. Amen.**

Creed & Prayers of the Church

In confidence and hope, let us confess our faith:

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.

The Prayers of the Church

Looking forward to Christ's coming with hope, we pray for church and community, and for all weary hearts awaiting justice, wholeness and peace.

Silence for Reflection

O God, renew our weary hearts. Strengthen us to endure, to walk together in love and share your strength. Holy One in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

O God renew the spirit of your church. May this Advent season teach us to wait in hope, to share the Good News of your coming, and to live out love and mercy, that all may know you are near. Father, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

O God give life to those who live in fear, whose strength is fading, who long for wholeness. Draw near to weary hearts as we pray for:

- all in need of healing care, and those who cannot find the care they need;
- those who are struggling to meet the needs of home and work and family;
- all weary and stressed by trying to make ends meet, by financial fears,

Other petitions may be added...

Father, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

O God, comfort those whose sorrows are deep, and reveal yourself to them through the care of friends and neighbors, that with all the saints we may all be gathered at your table of eternal grace.

O God hear the prayers we make that this weary world rejoice in the Name of Jesus, our Emmanuel, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

Please offer peace to those with you, in your heart or across Social Media. Offerings can be made online by going to the website, using the QR code with your smartphone or mailed. We are grateful for your continuing support of our mission and ministry! Then continue:

Sending

GOSPEL CANTICLE: *The Benedictus, the Song of Zachariah.*

Blessed are you Lord, the God of Israel;
you have come to your people and set them free.
**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our ancestors Sarah and Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous in your sight, all the days of our lives.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Announcements

Announcements were sent earlier in the week by USPS and email. Pastor may choose to call attention to one or more, or share announcements that were not included.



Dismissal

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now let your your servant go in peace
according to Your word.

**For mine eyes have seen Your salvation;
Which you have prepared before the face of all people;**

A light to reveal You to the nations,
And the glory of Your people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, amen!**

Blessing and Benediction

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
enlighten weary hearts, and guard your hearts and your minds through faith in Christ Jesus;
in the Name of God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

HYMN

Dwell in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

