

Welcome home! **BAY VIEW** **LUTHERAN CHURCH** ELCA



December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00 AM
Pastor Jeff Greathouse

PRELUDE: Janet Anderson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 4

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (ELW 240) **vs 1-4**

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.
- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.

Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

And our spirits rejoice in you.

We will praise you as long as we live.

We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.

We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,

the One who gives food to the hungry,

the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

As we worship you in this place,

As we light these candles in hope, peace, and joy.

OPENING PRAYER

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Holy God of Joy,

We rejoice in the reality of who you are.

We live within the joy of your love for us.

Our contentment comes and goes.

Our happiness ebbs and flows.

Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,

our physical health, our brain chemistry.

But our joy is deeply rooted

in our identity as your beloved children.

And we give you thanks. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

~ written by Rev. Jan Brooks, Cottonwood Falls Presbyterian Church.

O Holy God of Promise,
we so often place our trust in the things we can see,
and touch, and easily believe.
But you did not ask us to believe what is easy,
you have asked us to believe what is true!
Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work.
Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story.
Forgive us we question how you chose to enter the world,
born as one of us.
Forgive our lack of faith and belief
in ways which seem so impossible to believe.
Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts
that you sent your Son, born of a virgin –
the one who has come to set us all free.
We offer these prayers in the name of your Son,
Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ELW, HC, Setting II (118)

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and
ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I
therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in
the name of the Father, and the + Son. And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257) **vs 1-4**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. Refrain
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Refrain
- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power,

**Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might,
free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in
joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the
LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7 (*read responsively*)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon 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?**

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.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken
pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin
offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added,
“See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to
establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for
all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town
in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the
child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this
happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For
as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my
womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there
would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Jeff Greathouse

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God
in the highest: Refrain

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: Refrain

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

~ written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community website. <http://stillpointsa.org.au/prayer/prayers-and-liturgies/>

Our souls magnify the Lord,
and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour,
for he looks with favour upon us
and sees our unrealized potential.

In the tradition of Mary,
and all who have said “yes” to God,
we stand here today,
to add our assent to theirs.

Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed;
we wonder if we are worthy,
or capable, of following the calling.
Like Mary, we have our questions
and we will not be afraid to ask them.
Like Mary, we will hear and ponder
the assurance that God will empower us.
Like Mary we will strive to say -
“Let it be with us according to your will.”

To whatever God is inviting of us
at this time in our lives,
and relying on God’s grace,
we say “yes.”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

~ written by Christine Sine on Godspace <http://godspace-msa.com/>. It is part of a longer liturgy for Advent which can be viewed here: <http://godspace-msa.com/2015/11/29/liturgy-for-the-first-sunday-of-advent/>

Into our troubles and weaknesses,
Into the barren places of our souls, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the war torn and the refugee,
Into those who live in conflict, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the homeless and the unemployed,
Into those who feel abandoned, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the sick and the disabled,
Into those with Ebola and with cancer, Come, Lord
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the poor and the starving,
Into those who are oppressed or abused, Come Lord
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the lives of loved ones,
Into those from whom we are estranged, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into our joys and celebrations,
Into our work and our achievements, Come, Lord
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
O Christ we long for your coming. Hasten that day when those who seek you in every nation will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south and sit at table in Your Kingdom. Hasten the day when your Kingdom will come in all its glory and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will be resurrected as a great multicultural family and live in peace, harmony, joy and love together in your kingdom.

Remembering in our prayers: **Paul** (Jacobson), **Donovan** (Antholt), **Vicki** (Wittenberg), **Mimi** (Zinngrabe), **Janet** (Mickelson), **Deanne & Chris** (Schafer), **Kevin & Cathy** (Clark), **Steven** (Leek), **Dan** (Coyhis), **Sasha** (Hill), **Fred & Darlene** (Kirch), **Sandy** (Scott-Cota), **Rusty** (Feld), **Kayla** (Fleury), **Rich** (Mickelson), **Carl** (Scholz), **Tysha** (Osborne), **Dale** (Lyndahl), **Beth** (Jacobson),

Michael (Cassity), **Sue** (Strong), **Larry** (Uecker), **Carol** (Bockhop), **Andrew** (Snyder), **Lois** (Krueger), **Elena** (Rouer), **Chuck** (Dull), **Dan** (Knutson), **Don** (Greathouse), **Steve** (Kase), **the family & friends of Carol** (Bockhop).

We also pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week: **Bill** (Forry), **Leslie** (Hill), **Emily** (Koelpien) **Drew** (Rass), **Patrick** (Neu), **Tara** (Englebert), **Loren** (Gray), **Christian** (Hooker), **Naedene & Richard** (Peterson), **Kathleen & John** (Puetz).

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

MUSIC DURING OFFERING: Janet Anderson

OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
AMEN.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

SENDING BLESSING: THE TRINITY RESTORES YOU

~ written by Bill & Kristi Gaultiere, inspired by Psalm 80. Posted on Soul Shepherding.
<http://www.soulsherding.org/>

The Trinity restores you;
they make their face to shine all around you
so that you are saved.

The Father loves you;
He makes his face to shine down on you
so that you are saved.
The Son graces you;
He makes his face to shine right beside you
so that you are saved.
The Spirit lives in you;
He makes his face to shine inside you
so that you are saved.
The Trinity empowers you;
they make their face to shine through you
so that others are saved.

SENDING SONG: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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