

# *BAY VIEW* Welcome home!

## *LUTHERAN CHURCH* ELCA



December 5, 2021  
Second Sunday of Advent  
8:00 AM  
Pastor Jeff Greathouse

**PRELUDE:** Janet Anderson

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 2**

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be light shining in the darkness.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.  
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 & 2**

- 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.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

[Re-Worship Blogspot, Year C, Advent II](#)

A voice cries out:  
"Prepare for God's arrival!"

Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.  
Fill in the valleys, level off the hills.  
Smooth out the ruts, and clear out the rocks.  
For our God is coming!  
Let's worship together.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

~ adapted from weekly Advent reflections by Mark Pierson. <http://adventinart.org/>)

God in this season  
suspended between hope and fulfillment,  
let us never forget what you have done.  
May we be overwhelmed by your mercy,  
which flows in wave after wave.  
May we be honest about the darkness within us,  
and perceptive of the light around us.  
May we make straight the path for the Lord,  
that together we may see God's glory revealed.

## **CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

~ posted by Rev Gord on his blog, *Worship Offerings*. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

## **CONFESSION**

God of Grace,  
you blow the breath of life into our lungs,  
you have formed us in your image.  
**And yet we acknowledge that sometimes  
we are not who you would have us be.**

You challenge us to embrace the refining fire of your love,  
to meet you on the threshing floor of life, to be washed as with  
fuller's soap.

**But in our heart of hearts  
we would rather keep those things  
that would be removed in such an encounter.**

Through your Grace, life-giving God, accept us as we are,  
**Unrefined, unwashed, the chaff mixed in with the grain.**

And help us to move into a new way of being

*...time of silence...*

## **ASSURANCE**

Listen! For this is Good News!

God's Grace is wider than our wildest imaginings.

God's Grace embraces us as we are and where we are  
and draws us out to be the people we were created to be.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG: *Hark, the Glad Sound!* (ELW 239)**

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts,

**Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming  
give to all the people of the world knowledge of your**

salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Luke 1:68-79**

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us  
from our enemies,

<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,**

<sup>75</sup>**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>**to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the  
shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of

Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON:** Pastor Jeff Greathouse

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*  
(ELW 249) **vs 1, 2, 5**

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

~ written by Joan Stott, and posted on the Geelong City ParishUCA website. If used in shared worship, please provide an acknowledgement as follows: Copyright © 2012 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year C, used with permission.

We come together to sing the praises of our Faithful God, joining

with Zechariah in his praises! Blessed be the Lord our God, for favoring God's people with grace and mercy, and with peace and joy. We celebrate our God's direct involvement with God's people and give thanks for this great gift. We give thanks too, for the way all God's mighty promises have been revealed to struggling humanity as being fulfilled and completed. Our minds and hearts cannot comprehend the magnitude of these gifts, and so together, all we can do or say is: "Praise to the Lord our God for the gift of God's presence with us, and that we can believe in all God's promises."

God-Giving, Hope-Renewing God, just as that ancient priest celebrated the new hope he had been given through God's revelations, so we too praise and thank your God for the renewal by which God's hope continues to blesses us. God's gift of hope is always new and precious to us, because it is so much more than our idle day-dreams, or our wistful wishes; that hope is so much more than our ambitions of personal or professional success; and that hope is so much more than our most optimistic plans. Through God's gracious gift of a living hope, we at last have something to cling to that is tangible and real; something that we can believe in, to trust in and rely upon.

We give thanks that Zechariah knew about and believed the ancient messages of the prophets, and that he recognized God's path to life was through the way of peace and justice; mercy and forgiveness. We give thanks that he was able to interpret God's message as a bright shining light after centuries of darkness. Light-Giving God, we give you thanks that the darkness of fear, superstition and isolation has been overcome through the holiness and righteousness of our God, and that nothing in this life can ever defeat it; as we follow God's light-revealing path to God's fullness of life. **Amen.**

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).

We also pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week: **Sue** (Strong), **Luke** (Brown), **Megan** (Delfosse), **Renee** (McAllister), **Alicia** (Schopf), **Scott** (Pagels) **Dianne & Charles** (LaViolette).

## **PEACE**

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

## **OFFERING**

### **NOISY OFFERING**

A second offering of loose change is taken for our Community Emergency Fund.

**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.

**HYMN DURING COMMUNION:** *One Bread, One Body*  
(ELW 496)

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing which we bless,  
and we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. Refrain
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. Refrain
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one for all. Refrain

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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## 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

A new day is dawning!

Despite what we see and hear in the world around us,  
the sunrise is coming.

When it comes, it will break through the darkness of our world—  
darkness caused by violence and death and hunger and despair.

And all those who now sit huddled in the shadows  
will be able to rise and walk with confidence in the light.

So go from here with courage and hope,  
to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* (MERTON) (ELW 246)

- 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
all you children of the day!"
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,  
from earth's bondage let us rise;  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,  
come with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son  
with the everlasting Spirit  
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

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