

Worship Outline

Advent 1

December 1, 2019

We Gather

Prelude

He Comes to Us

Martin

Introit
Gates

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty

Williams

+Call to Worship (responsive)

A Pathway to Peace:

this is the road we travel.

Following the Peacemaker:

this is the road we travel.

Walking through Advent:

this is the road we travel.

Towards the Prince of Peace

let us walk together.

+Candle Lighting Liturgy

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

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the O Israel.

Candle is lit as the following is read:

Advent begins and we step onto our path towards the Prince of Peace.
This Advent we remember all those places where peace is absent.

*O Come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

+Prayer of Praise (responsive)

Milestone markers still appear
by roads long since made new.
The old stones still verge-rooted,
their etched mileages now weathered.
And yet, though smooth,
still beat the drum of distance travelled
and distance yet to come.

**And we, gracious God,
need markers on our pilgrim paths:
to keep us moving—
heart, soul and mind—
in love to you.**

And Christmas, now in view, does that:
turns our mind to a child,
and our hearts to your grace,
and our souls to the depths of your love.

**And in return for all you give and are—
our praise seems a present far too small.
But we give it willingly
as we travel hopefully
to greet a birth again. Amen.**

Unison Prayer of Confession

Let us join our voices together, confessing that which separates us from God.

**The way ahead seems well signed: Bethlehem—
star-led, stable-bound;
on our way,
as two modern proclaimers might say,
“from misery to happiness”.**

**Our way ahead is always well signed:
“I am the Way,”
said the one born in hay
when he grew to live
the love of God utterly
for the sake of a world
still intent on a different measure.**

**Forgive us for not reading and heeding
the signs that you show:
for taking a different path than peace;
for hurting and not healing;
for self-regarding and not self-giving;
for too readily travelling the return journey—
from happiness to misery—
and taking passengers with us!**

Silence is kept.

Keep silence for 20 seconds.

Assurance (responsive)

We worship a God who is not distant nor apathetic,
but a God who is with us—a God who loves us.
Let us keep our eyes open and look for God’s daily presence
and conform our ways to God’s teachings of compassion and grace.

**Let the Holy Spirit shine like a light in our hearts
fueled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ
who came into the world that we would be forgiven. Amen.**

The Peace and Welcome

In Jesus Christ, we know God's forgiveness and peace.
Let us share that peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

+Gathering Song 141 (verse 4)

*On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
Peace and love he gave us.
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o,
id-e-o gloria in excelsis De-o!*

Sharing the Story

Opening the Word with Young Disciples

Anthem

Waiting for the Promise

Larson
Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Let us pray...

Creator of the stars, in the stillness of this moment we wait; in the stillness of this moment we listen. As we hear the words of Scripture and sermon, we wait for your living Word; we listen for the cadence of your voice. Break into our lives with your eternal light and teach us your ways that we may walk in your paths of truth. Amen.

Let us listen for the Word of God given to us this day. A reading from the prophet, Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they 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.

5 O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva

+Hymn 753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 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.

Choral Prayer Response

Listen Lord
Bell

Offering

Invitation

Let us magnify the Lord, rejoicing in the one
who scatters the proud, lifts up the lowly,
and fills the hungry with good things.

Offertory

From Heaven Above Good News I Bring
Pachabel

+Doxology #84 (verse 4)

*To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. A-men.*

+Dedication

God of the Advent, as we joyfully enter this time of waiting, we feel nestled and safe in your everlasting peace. You have taught us the paths and choices that

lead to being in your Temple. We wait hushed in anticipation of the coming of your son. He serves as the guide of our lives and the shepherd of our souls. We hope to emulate his generosity and compassion as we share these gifts. Use these gifts so others can be blanketed with the warmth of your unconditional love, like a newborn baby wrapped in the loving arms of a parent. Amen.

Sending

+Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

+Benediction and Blessing

Go from this place

to be messengers of God.

We go with God beside us

to learn of his ways,

to walk in his paths,

to travel towards peace.

And may his blessing

always be with us,

now and forever.

+Congregational Benediction 100 (refrain)

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,

and the world is about to turn.

Postlude

Festive Postlude

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