

Worship Outline

Advent 2

December 8, 2019

We Gather

Prelude

What Is This Lovely Fragrance

Mold French Carol, arr. Manz

Introit

Come and Adore Him

Hughes

+Call to Worship (responsive)

A fresh start from an old root.

A new shoot from an old trunk.

A spoken hope from the silence of heaven.

**May we gather round
that which enlivens our longing
that breathes into incarnation
and sets free the word of life;
in this season,
for this time,
in our “now.”**

+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 thee O Israel.*

*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 the O Israel.*

Reader One: Every journey faces the unknown. And anxiety can sometimes overwhelm us. There is too much to do; our lists are long; our calendars are filled up; we worry that something will go wrong, or we won't end up in the right place or take the right route. Getting lost is a real possibility on a journey. And yet. We claim hope for the journey, because we follow the one who will travel with us and sustain us on the way.

Reader Two: Isaiah says that there is one who is to come who will be the fulfillment of all our hope. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on this one, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. We place our hope in this one.

Reader One: We light the candles of peace and of hope to give us strength for the journey.

(Light two candles on the wreath.)

Reader Two: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace and hope.

*O come, O come, thou Root of Jesse,
free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell they people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the O Israel.*

Unison Prayer of Confession

Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Let us come before the Lord confessing our sins and crooked paths.

Loving God, we have no idea how a wolf could live with a lamb. Why wouldn't a kid fear a leopard? The calf and the lion and the fatling together sound crazy, but a little child shall lead them – and us? We confess our exasperation with with such seemingly naïve words. And yet Lord, we know them to be true. We do not bear fruit worthy of repentance. We do not welcome one another as you welcome us. We have not lived into your hopes and dreams for us. We have not spread your peace. We are too often the wolf, the leopard and the lion. Help us learn to follow the little child and love the kid, calf and fatling. Help us live into your love and peace and promise for us. Forgive us, we pray.

Silence is kept.

Assurance

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” We have been baptized with the waters of repentance, and God never gives up on us – on you. Know that in the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Now go and sin no more.

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

Carols for

Advent

Liebergen

Chancel Choir, Martha Keeley - Flute

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon
+Hymn 94

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

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

Little Babe of Bethlehem

Offering

Invitation

Beloveds, God is not finished with us. Not as individuals. Not as a community. Not with our future as a collective people. The Spirit of God is stirring. And so let us bring all of who we are and share what we have together, that we might prepare the way for Love.

Offertory

+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

Renewing One, wherever there is heartbreak, wherever there is devastation, wherever there is loss, be near. Bring your abiding presence close to all who are dwelling in fields of despair. Bless these offerings to the work of your restoring justice and turn us from all that keeps us from doing right by another. Amen.

Sending

+Hymn 138

Who Would Think That What Was

Needed

+Benediction and Blessing

+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

Let All Together Praise Our God
Manz