

Worship Leader Edition
First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

8:30 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Bells of Praise

Barbara Kinyon

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *{Front Center}* (Pastor Rob)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(Deb Kibby and Diane LaFontaine)*

L: Today we will light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope.
We put our hope in the one to come, the promised one who comes from God to bring good news of salvation.
We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the LORD. We hope he will not let us live in dark valleys, but on the high mountain of God. We light this candle in Hope. (Light Candle)

C: On this day, we remember with hope the coming of Christ.

With Permission: Rev. Will Ryan, First Christian Church (DOC), Burlington, Iowa. Liturgy Links - 2016

CANDLE LIGHTING

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW #715

Verse 1

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *{Front Center}* (Pastor Rob)

L: In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long to draw closer to God, as our comfort and savior. So often, we get in our own way; we make choices that trip us up as we move away from God. So then, let us make our confession in this moment of silence.
(silence...)

L: Holy God...

C: we often forget what this story is about – the birth of our Savior Jesus. We’ve wrapped ourselves with so much planning, shopping, and decorating, we haven’t left time to give thanks for the one who changed the world. Forgive us. Open our hearts, so we may share our love for you, your creation, and all your children. Heal us, we pray.

L: Friends, hear this good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Freed to love and serve.

C: Alleluia! Amen.

(Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel’s ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.)

+GATHERING HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW #240

Verse 1

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 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!

+GREETING *{Front Center}* (Greg Hornicke)

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

C: And also with you.

(Assistant may be seated if not cantoring)

+KYRIE *(cantor and congregation)*

ELW pg. 138

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

+HYMN OF PRAISE *(cantor and congregation)*

“Glory to God”

ELW pg. 139

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lam of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY *{Front Center}* (Greg Hornicke)

L: Lord, we confess that we are often impatient with the processes of this world. May we meet unexpected troubles with patience, steadfastness and fortitude forged by Your wise and loving hands, as you did for Zechariah. Help us learn to wait on You, to hope in You, to trust in You, and to commit our ways to You. In Your Son’s name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING *(Bette Gamboni)*

Daniel 9:20-24

While I was speaking, and was praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God on behalf of the holy mountain of my God— while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen before in a vision, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. He came and said to me, ‘Daniel, I have now come out to give you wisdom and understanding. At the beginning of your supplications a word went out, and I have come to declare it, for you are greatly beloved. So consider the word and understand the vision: ‘Seventy weeks are decreed for your people and your holy city: to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

ELW pg. 142

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

+THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:5-25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was

chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

+HYMN OF THE DAY

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

ELW #249

Verse 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!

without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 5

All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Verse 3

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;

+THE APOSTLES' CREED {*Front Center*} (Greg Hornicke)

Screen

C: 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.

+THE PRAYERS {*Front Center*} (Greg Hornicke)

Screen

After each petition:

L: God of love,

C: **we wait in hope.**

+THE LORD'S PRAYER {*Front Center*} (Greg Hornicke)

Screen

C: 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.

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

“Advent Meditation”
Bells of Praise

H. Dean Wagner

SENDING

+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (Pastor Rob)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

+BENEDICTION {*Front Center*} (Pastor Rob)

L: Be people of hope. Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Adapted from Rev. Susannah DeBenedetto's Benediction, Christ Congregational Church & Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, Takoma Park MD

+SENDING HYMN

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

ELW #311

Verse 1

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.

Verse 2

You come with rescue speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in your sight.

+DISMISSAL {*Front Center*} (Greg Hornicke)

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Verse 3

You shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

Verse 4

Kings shall fall down before you,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore you,
your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
your kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.