

Midweek Advent Service
Wait Upon the Lord With Gratitude
December 22, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Please note: This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds.
(Psalm 9:1)

PRELUDE

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” setting by Charles W. Ore

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Please stand

OPENING HYMN

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

- 1 **The King shall come when morning dawns
 And light triumphant breaks,
 When beauty gilds the eastern hills
 And life to joy awakes.**

- 2 **Not as of old a little child,
 To bear and fight and die,
 But crowned with glory like the sun
 That lights the morning sky.**

- 3 **Oh, brighter than the rising morn
 When Christ, victorious, rose
 And left the lonesome place of death
 Despite the rage of foes.**

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- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

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INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord.

People: Be strong and courageous.

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord. That's what Zachariah did. Then he gave thanks, saying:

People: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel.

Pastor: For He has visited and redeemed His people.

People: To guide our feet into the way of peace.

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord.

People: Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

People: **We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with You. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from Your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater

Pastor: Believe and receive the good news! God sent His Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show His infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of ✠ Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord.

People: **Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!**

KYRIE

“Forgive Us Lord”

Stephen M. Fearing

**Forgive us, Lord, for times when love was lost,
and moments when we never thought to care,
For times when we destroy and subdue
The Word that bring Your people close to You.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
and help us love so newness can begin.**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth Your power and might, just as You did in the days of Zechariah the priest; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit—God forever.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:2-4

² look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. ³ The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. ⁴ "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:17-24

¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not put out the Spirit's fire; ²⁰ do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ Test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Avoid every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Advent Hymn"

Christy Nockels

*Christ whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the everlasting light.
Son of righteousness, arise, and triumph o'er these chains of mine.*

*Come, thou long-awaited One, in the fullness of Your love
And loose this heart bound up by shame and I will never be the same.*

Chorus:

*So here I wait in hope of You, all my soul's longing, through and through.
Dayspring from on high, be near, and Daystar in my heart, appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn until Your love in me is born;
And joyless is the evening song until Emmanuel has come.*

CCLI Song # 7071465 Christy Nockels

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Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:67-79

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), ⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us-- ⁷² to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

346 When All the World was Cursed

- 1 When all the world was cursed
By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.

- 2 Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:

- 3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.

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4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him
In His eternal day.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

OFFERING

Meditation on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

setting by Ryan Meyer

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we wait for You.

People: More than watchmen wait for the morning--

Pastor: More than watchmen wait for the morning.

People: Lead us in Your truth and teach us.

Pastor: For You are the God of our salvation.

People: For You we wait all the day long.

Pastor: O God, inspire us to wait for You faithfully.

People: Serve You joyfully.

Pastor: And give to others generously.

People: Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.

Pastor: Courage for the fainthearted.

People: Hope for the discouraged.

Pastor: And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.

People: **As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel

- 1 Sing praise to the God of Israel!
Sing praise for His visitation!
Redeeming His people from their sin,
Accomplishing their salvation,
Upraising a mighty horn within
The house of His servant David!**

- 2 God spoke by the prophets long ago,
His promise on oath recalling—
To Abraham made in former years:
Of vanquishing foes appalling,
That those He delivered from their fears
Might gladly and truly serve Him.**

- 3 You, child, will go on before the Lord
As prophet, His way preparing;
To speak on behalf of God Most High,
His counsel of truth declaring:
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby
Iniquity is forgiven.**

**4 O bright, rising Sun, now shine on us
In need of illumination;
Come scatter the shades of sin and death
And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path
Of peace, in Your presence dawning!**

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POSTLUDE

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Paul Manz

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher: Jedidiah McClellan

Liturgist: Theodore Laesch

Soloist: Nate Laesch

Organist & Accompanist: Ryan Meyer