

Second Week of Advent

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Sunday Morning Worship

Please join us online for worship this morning. The video will go "live" at 10:30am.

We will celebrate Holy Communion this morning. Please prepare your elements.

Call to Worship

A voice cries out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord!

God has promised us a new creation where righteousness will be at home.

Blessed is the Holy One our God, who has sent a mighty Savior to redeem us.

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candles

Light two purple candles.

Light one candle for love. Because the world is broken and the wait is long, but love never ends. Love faithfully goes about the work of casting out fear speaking truth healing the deepest wounds crossing the divide from this world to the next and back again. "Here I am," she whispers, "the servant of the Lord." So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us.

Sung Response

We Gather 'Round

by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy

We gather 'round with love in our hearts,

Seeking blessings for all though we're so far apart

Apart, but in God's great mystery We are joined in a love that is flowing and free.

The candles glow, showing us God's light, Calling us forward, united in Christ.

Prayer of Confession

God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance. Therefore let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Sermon

"Home for the Holidays"

Second in a series, "The Christmas Playlist"

Musical Reflection

“(There’s No Place Like) Home for the Holidays”

Invitation to the Table

Hallelujah! The Lord of God the Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come! Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb!

Communion Prayer

How can we thank you, O God? for sun and moon and stars...
...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The 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 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 glory forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Please partake of communion at this time in the service.

Prayer After Communion

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. Amen.

Benediction and Sending

