

First Sunday of Advent, Year A
11.27.2022
Pastor Kira Anderson

Ushers: Bob and Kim Durdahl
Greeters: Bill and Shari Ekstrom
Bell Ringer: Tony Busiahn
Sound Board: Bob Durdahl
Computer: Kim Durdahl
Reader: Linda Henderson
Acolyte: Arica Pagel
Altar Guild: Judy Johnson, Deb Norstad, and Carie Dicke
Money Counters: Debbie Sundheim and Peyton Gustafson
Pianist/Organist: Jane Bracken
Choir Director: Cindy Hayward

Parish Announcements

December 3rd – 3:00 PM Bells of the Bluffs (St. Ansgar's)

December 11th – Christmas Program and Forum

Volunteers - Baked goods are needed for the Forum on December 11th. Any questions please contact Cathy Hanson @ 507-304-0847

Prelude

Piano: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – Rowland H. Prichard

Organ: “The Advent of Our Lord” – C.S. Lang

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Church Bells

Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of the Peace

Lighting of the Advent Wreath with Chancel Choir “The Hope of Your Coming”

(Narration with Congregational Response)

- L: A Savior, the Messiah, is promised; the birth of the Child is prophesied in God’s word.
- C: Oh Lord, You are our Hope.
- L: For what was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- C: Oh Lord, You are our Hope.
- L: Our hearts long for the Hope that Your arrival will bring.
- C: Oh Lord, You are our Hope.

- L: God's promises are true. We await the birth of Christ, the Promised Child, the Savior of the World. Hope is coming soon!
- C: Oh Lord, You are our Hope.

Gathering Hymn: (ELW #239) "Hark, the Glad Song"

vs1

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

vs3

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

vs4

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Greeting

- P: 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.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

L: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even though we sin, and God has made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. Not through your actions, but through Christ's death. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May God almighty strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Holy God,

C: Stir-up your power and come into our presence. Give us pause to witness the miracle of Christ among us this season as we prepare our hearts for you. Help us to find hope, peace, joy, and love in this world because of our faith. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Children's Message

First Reading: Psalm 122

L: A reading from Psalm

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." ²Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. ³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself; ⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD. ⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. ⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. ⁷Peace be with in your walls and quietness with in your towers. ⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Choral Music: "Waiting, Watching, Wondering"

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel

Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But 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. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: (ELW #257) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

vs1

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

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

vs2

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

vs4

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

vs8

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.
until the Son of God appear.

Prayers of the People

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 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.

Tithes, Offering and Gifts

Globe Offering: "Feed My Starving Children"

Offertory: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" – 11th century plainsong

Offering Prayer:

P: Eternal God, In this season of Advent we remember that all that we have comes from you. Receive these simple gifts that we offer you today and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction/ Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Candles Extinguished

Sending Hymn: (ELW #242) “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

vs1

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.

vs3

In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.

vs4

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, Christ is near.

L: Thanks be to God.

Ringing of the Chancel Bells

Postlude: “Prepare the Royal Highway” – G. Winston Cassler