

Third Sunday in Advent
December 12, 2021
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Davis Bay, BC

Preservice music/announcements

GATHERING

In this time and place
we gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh nation.
From many places and peoples, we come to this house of prayer.

In this time and place
we await the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.
Come, Lord Christ, Come.

In this time and place
we await God's transformation of the world.
Come, Lord Christ, Come.

In this time and place
we await the coming of the Commonwealth of peace.
Come, Lord Christ, Come.

In this time and place
we commit ourselves to work with Christ that all these things may be accomplished.
In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of God's holy love, shining like light on the earth.
It is round because love never ends. It is green because love always grows.
It uses four candles, one lit each week, to symbolize the power of love
that enlightens the world and dispels the darkness.

Over the past two Sundays, we have lit the candles of hope and peace.
Along with the first two, we now light the third candle—the candle of joy.
Joy is like a candle in the night. We celebrate the joy of every healing
and renewal, the joy that is ours through Jesus Christ. We pray for the day
when God's joy is fulfilled for all creation.

Three candles are lit as the congregation sings to the tune of Hymn #247:
Come now, O God of joy, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

*O God, you ask us to open our hearts to your presence in the world.
In this season of waiting, we make our hearts ready by thanking you
for what gives us joy. Amen.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favour upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn #267 Joy to The World

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit,
and the peace of God which passes all understanding be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, **and open our ears
to the preaching of John, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth
the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen**

WORD

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel verse

#262 "Wait for the Lord" Sing 3x

Please rise if able

Wait for the Lord

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second system contains the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The music is written on a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on a whole note G in the treble clef.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Holy Gospel

Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. Even now the axe 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.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And

we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #242 Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

A brief silence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant courage to all your people that we may speak and act for your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and restore the fullness of life to our planet and all its creatures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day . . . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of Peace, nations are in tumult and armies prepare for war, raise up your peacemakers to calm our anger and fear, and guide us to share our blessings with those who live in want and danger. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Joyful God, the Angels delight in singing and brought awe and wonder to shepherds in their fields. Create music in our hearts this Advent that we may share your joy with those who need blessings of good cheer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, though we proclaim your joy, we know that many have deep sorrow as they remember the loss of loved ones in this season of the year. Comfort all who mourn with the assurance that in Christ, death has been defeated and your saints abide in safety and peace. And hear our prayers of thanksgiving for those we would name before you . . .

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching,

we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,

through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving *(The opening dialogue)*

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to God for these gifts. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,

through whom you will also make all things new in the day

when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth

and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

Hymn #190

Holy, Holy, Holy Great Thanksgiving

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with a supporting bass line in the Bass clef. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proffitt, b. 1937
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Prayer of Thanksgiving over the gifts

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith, increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honour is yours,
Almighty One, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

Fraction

The gifts of God for the dearly-loved people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to the Supper

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Lamb of God

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases ending in a double bar line.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
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Hymn during the Meal #472 Holy, Holy, Holy

Distribution

Prayer after the Meal

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

Distribution

After receiving both elements, those wishing to receive prayer and laying on of hands and anointing with oil are invited to go behind the table where the rite of healing is offered. Please return to your seats via the aisle closest to the piano. Thank you.

Prayer after the Meal

Most High God, **you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.**

SENDING**Blessing**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

Sending Song #248 People, Look East

Dismissal. Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude