

*But the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found
favor with God. You will conceive and give
birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”*



Luke 1:30-31

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 3, 2023

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Bruce Crauder & Laurie Woodford*

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Jarka Pederson*

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CALL TO WORSHIP *Romans 13:11* *Lynne Moran*

One: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;

All: the night is far gone, the day is near,

One: Let us worship God!

*HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #82

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

(Words & Music: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus; Trad. Liturgical text, Public Domain.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray:

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Seduced by technology, captivated by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Be gracious to us, we pray. Forgive us for our distraction, our inattentiveness, our apathy toward you. Awaken us this Advent season to your coming, for you are enough for us – our only source of life, and peace, and wholeness. Amen.

(Time for Silent Confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI** *“Glory Be to the Father”* #581

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, amen.**

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CHILDREN’S SERMON *Pastor Bill*

SONG *“Jesus Loves Me!” (vs. 1)* #188

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

(Words & Music: Jesus Loves Me!; by Anna Bartlett Warner, Public Domain.)

ANTHEM *“Advent Dreams”
Gabriel’s Sounds*

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Lynne Moran*

O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING *Psalms 80* *Lynne Moran*

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River. Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted. They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Restore Us!"

Rev. Dr. Bill Pederson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIFTS OF TITHE AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"In Christ Alone"

Sean Mann

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground**

**Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fulness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live**

**There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

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***DOXOLOGY** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* #609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Therefore we praise you...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All Sing: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

One: Remembering...to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Through Christ...now and forever.

All: 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 the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Away in a Manger, and Morning”

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Psalm 103:1,2

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

All: And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

All: And forget not all God's benefits.

***HYMN**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

#106

**Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.**

**Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.**

**O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.**

**He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.**

**O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.**

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing.**

**O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.**

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***CHARGE**

One: Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Il Est Ne"

Sean & Ginger Mann

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BLESSING

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

All: Alleluia! Amen.

***FOLLOWING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

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