

## Facebook Live Worship Outline

*Advent 2- 6 December 2020*

### GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN    ELW #254    *Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*

- 1    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 ev'ry nation,  
      joy of ev'ry longing heart.
  
- 2    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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

### GREETING

- P:    The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
      and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C:    **And also with you.**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

- P:    A voice cries in the wilderness,  
C:    **“Prepare the way of the Lord; make God’s way clear.**
- 
- P:    Lift up every valley;  
C:    **Lower every mountain.**

**All:    For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Let us pray. Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule.
- C: Amen

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent 2 - peace

- P: Light one candle for peace.  
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,  
but we refuse to be frozen by fear.  
Peace comes in fits and starts  
a deep breath a courageous truth a humble heart.  
"Prepare the way," she whispers,  
"for the Lord comes to make the broken whole."  
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:  
Christ with us.

ADVENT SONG                      ELW #715    *Christ Be Our Light*                      v2

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Refrain    Christ, be our light!  
             Shine in our hearts.  
             Shine through the darkness.  
             Christ be our light!  
             Shine in your church gathered today.*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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## WORD

### FIRST READING

*In grand flowing poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God. Reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter:*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words. **Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. This is the Holy Gospel according to Mark:*

### ***Glory to you, O Lord***

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Mark 1:1-8

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

EVLW #266

*All Earth is Hopeful*

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us,"  
our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P: Separated by distance in our homes and yet confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition will end with the phrase "Hear us, O God" and I invite you to respond with the words, "your mercy is great" (*Pause*)

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Assist our Bishop, our Pastor(s), and all who minister in the church. Show us what is your way and where are your paths, and awaken all the baptized to the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Remember the people of Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Guide the nations towards cooperative efforts when facing global issues. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. In this season of Advent we pray for: Ferolyn, Jordan, Pat, Carol, Beryl, Barb, Elethia, Pat and for all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts. *(Pause)* Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbours. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Come to all who are facing the coronavirus, O compassionate God. Protect the vulnerable. Heal the sick. Embrace the dying. Sustain medical workers. Prepare a vaccine. End this scourge. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. We remember especially St. Nicholas in his care for children. Bring us with them through our wilderness into the fulfillment of your promises. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**PEACE**

## **MEAL**

*We now enter that portion of our service that is the Eucharist or Holy Communion. I invite you to have your wine and bread ready and let's begin with prayer.*

**P:** Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: God is with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Come, Emmanuel into our longing hearts.

C: **We lift them up to You.**

P: As we gather at this table.

C: **In anticipation and hope.**

P: God of hopeful expectation,  
who enters into our stories,  
who births new life into creation,  
who invites us into a rich and restoring relationship.  
We come before you with humble hearts  
To greet you in our midst.

You were there when creation burst into being, with endless possibilities.  
You were there when the Israelites tasted liberty, and you opened their eyes to new freedom.  
You were there, with Mary, when she became a powerful vessel and witness, to birth love into the world.  
You were there with Jesus when he prayed in the garden, when he confronted death and brought resurrection life to your people.

And you are with us now, as we gather at your table;  
Your meal and gift of love for all who come hungry and thirsty today.  
We come, like those first disciples,  
gathered around the table to hear Jesus' words of promise and hope.

On the night that he last ate with his disciples,  
Jesus took bread, 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.

When the meal had finished, Jesus took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new promise of life and love, poured out for all of you,  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his life, his death and his resurrection,  
We offer these fruits of creation, bread and wine,  
And ourselves in grateful service.

Thank you for your Spirit who works in and among us,  
in times of hope-filled anticipation.  
Who strengthens and sustains us,  
and who, challenges and prods us.  
Who gives us life and continues to surprise us with extravagant grace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.  
All honour and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

P: And now as our Saviour Jesus has taught us we are bold to pray:.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

#### **COMMUNION**

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.  
These are the gifts of God for the Children of God.

*After all have communed, the presiding minister may say a table blessing.*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his  
grace.

**C Amen**

P: Let us pray.  
Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us and we rejoice. In  
this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

## CHARGE

P: The day of the Lord is coming;  
therefore strive to live in peace,  
for God's salvation is near.

## Blessing

P: The creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Saviour fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✝ now and forever. Amen

## SENDING SONG

ELW #259

*Fling Wide the Door*

- 1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;  
the King of glory comes in state;  
the Lord of lords and King of kings,  
the Savior of the world who brings  
his great salvation to the earth.  
So raise a shout of holy mirth  
and praise our God and Lord,  
Creator, Spirit, Word.
- 2 He is the rock of our belief,  
the heart of mercy's gentle self.  
His kingly crown is holiness;  
his scepter is his loveliness;  
he brings our sorrows to an end.  
Now gladly praise our king and friend,  
and worship him with song  
for saving us from wrong.
- 3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands  
that live by their true king's commands.  
And blessed be the hearts he rules,  
the humble places where he dwells.  
He is the rightful Son of bliss  
who fills our lives and makes us his,  
creator of the world,  
our only strength for good.
- 4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;  
our hearts are open wide in trust.  
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,  
upon our sorrows shine your face,

and let your Holy Spirit guide  
our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name,  
from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

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## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Readings for the Week:**

Monday Psalm 27

Tuesday Isaiah 4:2-6

Wednesday Luke 1:5-17

Thursday Habakkuk 2:1-5

Friday Philippians 3:12-16

Saturday Matthew 21:28-32

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent - 13 December 2020: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28