

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ST/JOHN'S



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Sunday, November 29, 2020

9:30 am

INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE

Air and March by G. F. Handel
St. John's Bell Choir

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

GATHERING HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"
Revised text by Dr. Barbara K. Lundblad

O come, O come, Immanuel
And bless each place your people dwell.
Melt ev'ry weapon crafted for war,
Bring peace upon the earth forever more.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,
God's chosen one, Immanuel, draws near.

O come, green shoot of Jesse, free
Your people from despair and apathy;
Forge justice for the poor and the meek,
Grant safety for the young ones and the weak. *Refrain*

O come, now living water, pour your grace
And bring new life to ev'ry withered place;
Speak comfort to each trembling heart:
"Be strong! Fear not, for I will ne'er depart." *Refrain*

O come, dear child of Mary, come,
God's Word made flesh within our earthly home;
Love stir within the womb of night,
Revenge and hatred put to flight. *Refrain*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Luke, Erin, and Ben Rasmussen

Presiding Minister: On this day, we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place.

In 1973, Baptist pastor and Civil Rights activist, Howard Thurman penned these words of hope at the coming of the Christ child:

“I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.”

Lay Leader: Isaiah 2:1-5 prophesies: “In days to come, the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains; all the nations shall stream to it.”

Lay Leader: We light a “candle of hope where despair keeps watch.”

Please light one blue candle of your Advent wreath (parent supervision required for children).

Lay Leader: With Isaiah, prophet of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Text prepared by Hannah McConnell.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

+ Word +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community
 Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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 www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
 the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

HYMN OF THE DAY

Soon and Very Soon, ELW 439



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

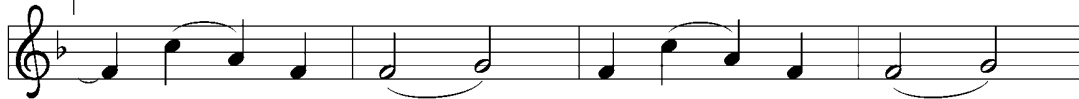


soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response:

Lord, in your mercy, or Lord, we praise you,
 Hear our prayer. Thanks be to God.

+ **Meal** +

OFFERING MUSIC

Swing Low Sweet Chariot
African-American Spiritual, arr. by Patricia Cota
St. John's Bell Choir

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be made online at stjohnswilmette.org/give. You may also write a check made out to St. John's Lutheran Church and mail it to 1235 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**God our Mother, God 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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

+ Sending +

SENDING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn, ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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BENEDICTION

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

SERVING TODAY

<i>Presiding Minister:</i>	The Rev. Allison Bengfort
<i>Preaching Minister:</i>	Bishop Yehiel Curry
<i>Music Director & Organist:</i>	Dr. Robert McConnell
<i>Minister of the Word:</i>	Jim Dossa
<i>Advent Wreath Lighters:</i>	The Rasmussen Family
<i>Virtual Usher:</i>	Luke Rasmussen

IN OUR PRAYERS

- † The family of Doris Regan, who died on November 25.
- † Craig Gonder, his girlfriend, Stephanie Gablaoui, and her son, Malik, for healing and recovery from COVID
- † Beth Gonder, sister of Craig, and her boyfriend, Jake Peterson, for healing and recovery from COVID
- † James, friend of Craig Gonder, in need of healing and recovery from COVID
- † A co-worker of James, recovering from COVID
- † Stanley Smith, brother-in-law of Margye Smith, and his family, experiencing several cases of COVID
- † The family and friends of Carolyn Rasmussen, grandmother of Luke Rasmussen, who died 10/9/20
- † Art Garcia, friend of Chad Johnson, recovering from a heart attack and pneumonia
- † Tony & Alissandra Swanson, friends of the Abudayeh family, as they mourn the death of their 7-year-old son
- † Alan Williams, stepfather of Christi Wise, recovering from surgery
- † Frank Ziegler, in need of healing
- † Iden Nowlin, friend of the Abudayeh family, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The families of Salwa Sous and Kevin Anderson, family members of Stephanie & Elias Abudayeh, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones
- † Rachel Cordts, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The family and friends of Pastor Bob Stout, former pastor of the Abudayeh family, who died 9/12/20
- † Cam Wise, for physical and emotional health
- † Ken Kastman, healing from broken ribs after a fall
- † Janet Rassenfoss and Alan Swanson, on the birth of their first grandchild, Molly Francis Wilka, on 7/6/20
- † The family and friends of Bob Anderson who died 6/8/20
- † The family and friends of Matt Dossa, nephew of Jim Dossa, who died 6/7/20
- † Sylvia Cushing, cousin of Olga Domchenko, in need of healing
- † Janet Witt, cancer diagnosis
- † Virginia Milnikel, broken arm
- † Lani Miller
- † Doug Peters, who died 11/19/20
- † Linda Bengfort, mother of Pastor Allison, ongoing back pain
- † Greyson Nester
- † Margaret (Maggie) Oxland
- † Marty Anderson
- † Ellie Basnik, mother-in-law of Chad Johnson, cancer diagnosis
- † Gil Basnik, father-in-law of Chad Johnson, in need of healing
- † The family of Paul Escamilla, friend of Elias & Stephanie Abudayeh
- † Sydney Johnson, her work
- † Mark Voosen
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Ed Price, friend of Sarah Rink
- † Jodi Kretzman, friend of Peter Knobel
- † Jessica Sandoval, friend of the Radde family
- † Fred Rudolphi, friend of Bill Kaspar, in need of healing
- † The family and friends of Helene Tadros, Olga Domchenko's sister, who died 4/6/20, and especially for William Sciarrino, Helene's caretaker
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death of Doris Regan

In the early hours of the morning on Wednesday, November 25th, our long-time, beloved member, Doris Regan, died at the age of 99 and rose to be among the eternal cloud of witnesses. Her children were able to spend her last week with her and say heartfelt goodbyes. Please pray for Jan Wendel, Sharon Regan, and the whole family as they grieve.

Advent Boxes for Sunday Worship

Children and adults are encouraged to have their Advent box handy for use during worship today. All are encouraged to light a candle of the Advent wreath together at the beginning of the service (parent supervision will be needed for children). During the Children's Message, the children will be using the Advent Countdown and other items from the box. If you have not received an Advent Box and would like to receive one, please contact jan@stjohnswilmette.com.

Children's Social Time

This morning, we will begin offering time for children to connect with one another in an unstructured way before worship. This Children's Social Time will begin at 9:15 am on our regular worship zoom link. If you have a young person at home, please log on and say hello!

Women's Ordination Anniversaries Adult Forum Series

In 2020, the ELCA celebrates 50 years of ordaining women to the ministry of word and sacrament. Beginning this morning, we will explore the history of women's ordination and discover the ways we still need to grow as a church in creating equality for women and people of all genders.

Intent Cards

If you have not done so already, please visit stjohnswilmette.org/give to submit your intent card online. You may also return your card by mail as soon as possible. Let's invest in our future together!

Holy Family Christmas Giving Tree

This year, due to extreme COVID safety measures in place for the children of Holy Family, they will be using gift cards to purchase gifts for the kids. Although not as much fun as picking out a gift for one of our wonderful and hard-working HFM students, this is the safest way to still say we love you to the children in their care. Our goal this year is 40 donations at \$25 each. Deadline for the collection is **November 30th**. The Holy Family *Christmas Giving Tree* program has been a part of St. John's for many years, and we don't want to miss blessing the children of Holy Family at this joyous holiday season. This may be the only gift they receive this year. Thank you so much. Please make your checks payable to Cindi Rachowicz and mail them to her home at 2757 Bernard Place, Evanston IL 60201.

Phase 3 Precautions

In response to the state of Illinois' move back to Phase 3 of the COVID recovery process, our congregation has also returned to Phase 3 precautions. This means that the building is closed to all groups, and the church office is closed as well. Jan and the rest of the staff will continue to work from home. Please reach out to our Re-Entry Team (Pastor Allison, Michel Hauser, Al Swanson, and Christi Wise) if you have any questions.

A Message from Mindy

I have to launch another GoFundMe as numerous job prospects in Aug/Sep did not pan out and my financial outlook is grim at this time, and I have multiple payments due for less usual expenses. Thanks

to your generosity, the June GFM was very successful, so your prayers, positive energy, and support (funny notes, emails, calls) obviously worked. I and my cats Oona and Mimi are very blessed. The cats are especially happy with all the cat toy donations from Susan Crist. Just in mice alone, they now enjoy a huge surplus supply that will last them for years, as I have a 3-mouse maximum in active rotation at any one time in my home! Please continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers; I just received notice of new job prospects and have responded. I am praying for you and yours as well, especially during this crazy, stressful time of pandemic. My Go Fund Me page can be found [here](#).

Children's Bulletins

Children's bulletins for each Sunday are now available on our website under Worship Bulletins and at the bottom of the eNewsletter each week. Check it out!

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a nonprofit founded by Amazon that donates a small percentage of your Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice. If you plan to make any orders on through Amazon, please consider using smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com to make your purchases. There, you can search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate "St John Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John's encourages all its members to make purchases locally

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

9:15-9:30 AM Children's Social Time
9:30 AM Online Worship with Children's Message
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Women's Ordination Anniversaries Adult Forum

TUESDAY

7:00 PM Executive Committee Online

WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM-12:00 PM Bible Study Online

THURSDAY

12:00-1:00 PM Men's Lunch
7:00-8:30 PM Rooted in Relationships Team Meeting

SATURDAY

5:00 PM Contemplative Service Online

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:15-9:30 AM Children's Social Time
9:30 AM Online Worship with Children's Message
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Women's Ordination Anniversaries Adult Forum

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