

ORDER OF WORSHIP

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – December 5th, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER-FEBRUARY WORSHIP 8:30AM

PRELUDE BY SHIRLEY BERGMAN AND DAWN QUACKENBUSH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LITANY

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Instill in us a yearning to seek your presence in each other.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Quicken us to help all people feel welcomed and supported.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Rouse us to care for one another, friend and stranger alike.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Inspire us to be your handiwork in the world.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Fill us with a holy hunger for a just world where all are fed.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Stir up in our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your Son.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!

ADVENT SONG-- We Light a Candle by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan (On bulletin insert-- sing vs. 1 & 2)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**Please stand as you are able.*

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 favor 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.

OPENING HYMN: *Hark, the Glad Sound!* ELW 239

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

**2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

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

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

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

**Please be seated.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

A Reading from Malachi.

1See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

68Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**69You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

70Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
71from the hands of all who hate us,

**72to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

73This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

74to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

75holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

76And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**77to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

78In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

7to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

A Reading from Philippians.

3I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord and savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3He went into all the region around the Jordan,

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

5Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
6and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**Please be seated.*

SERMON BY BISHOP KEVIN JONES

HYMN OF THE DAY: *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's Cry ELW 249*

**Please stand as you are able.*

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.**
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.**
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,**

and Holy Spirit, evermore.

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.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Grant patience, endurance, and strength to health care workers and all others who feel overwhelmed during this pandemic. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill, especially Stephanie Winkelpleck, Dennis Bushkofsky, Betsy Norland, and all who we name in our hearts. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. 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.

**Please be seated.*

OFFERING

During this time, the children will collect the Noisy Offering for ELCA World Hunger. All other offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entryway of the sanctuary.

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.

**Please stand as you are able.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 Savior 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, God of power and might,

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION

**Please be seated.*

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

SPECIAL MUSIC by Charlie Rod (during communion distribution)

**Please stand as you are able.*

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

BENEDICTION

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.

**Please be seated.*

CLOSING HYMN: Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding! ELW 246

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!

"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"

- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,
come with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!

DISMISSAL BY CHILDREN

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

And have fun doing it.

We will! Amen!

POSTLUDE by Shirley Bergman

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:

Pastor: Pastor Kristen Rod

Preacher: Bishop Kevin Jones

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Randy and Iva Ruehs

Reader: Sue Hoey

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday, Dec 5th:

8:30am Worship and communion with Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsal to follow

Tuesday December 7th:

10am -12pm Prayer Shawl

Wednesday December 8th: 5:30pm Advent Service at Jubilee

6:30pm Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsal

7:00pm Confirmation class

Sunday December 12th:

8:30am Worship and communion with Sunday School Christmas Program

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance-22

Current: 17,298.59

Offering: 11/28/21

Current: 1,345

Benevolence: 207

Improvement: 85

Non Synod Benevolence: 20

Lutheran Services of Iowa: 60

Memorial: 200

Jubilee: 2,786.27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship time is 8:30 AM December 5-February 27.

Welcome to Bishop Kevin: Today we are joined by Bishop Kevin Jones, Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Bishop Kevin will be providing the sermon today. **Noisy offering** today is for ELCA World Hunger.

Christmas gifts for Bremwood collected through December 12. You may donate money (which will be used to buy GC), Walmart gift cards, board games, and teen-level PG rated DVDs. Donations are collected in the narthex. Call Mary Adams (319) 269-3478 with questions. Thank you for your continued generosity.

ALC Christmas offering designation: All ALC Christmas offering envelopes and offerings will be split 50/50 between **Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach** (which

funds an ELCA Lutheran Chaplain at the University of Iowa Hospital) and ALC member **Stephanie Winkelpleck** (to help with her medical expenses for Acute Myeloid Leukemia). **Caring Bridge** link:
<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/stephaniewittwinkelpleck>.

Christmas Carolers needed: The Boy Scouts are putting on an event in the park on Friday, Dec 17 and are in need of some carolers. The carolers would sing familiar Christmas songs for about 20-30 min beginning at 6:45pm. If you are interested, just show up, music booklets will be provided!

ALC Committees: Council will be looking to fill committee openings for 2022. Please consider sharing your time and talents as we try to establish a three-year rotation. We currently have openings on **Property, Technology, Hospitality**.

Prayer Shawl meets Tuesdays, 10 AM - noon. Enjoy fellowship while knitting and crocheting. New members welcome. The shawls and blankets are shared with those who are ill, grieving, and in need of comfort.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief: We will take a break during December.

Please talk to Sharon McAtee, Kaye Jones, or Mary Adams if you are interested in this ministry. Our next work day is January 10, 2022 at 1:00 PM. We gather every second and fourth Monday to cut, pin, sew, iron, and tie quilts. Come join us!

Sheets for Quilting needed: Sheets for quilt backs can be put in the back pew. Thanks for your help.

Mobile Giving App If you give your regular contributions using Give Plus App, we have been notified that they will stop supporting the Give Plus app as of January 31, 2022. You should download the new app called Vanco Mobile to continue using. Note: your username and password will remain the same, and any recurring payments you have scheduled will continue in the new app. **If you do not currently have anything setup, now is a great time to download the Vanco Mobile app and start your recurring giving today.**

Financial gifts & designations: December is a great time to reflect on your regular giving, and to consider increasing the amount that you regularly give to God through the church, as well as how much you designate to various ministries. Anything designated "Mission Support (Benevolence)" goes to support the ministries of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Anything designated "Improvement" goes to support property upkeep and improvements to the church building and parsonage. Anything designated "Current," as well as

anything undesignated, goes to support the general operating expenses of the congregation. Thank you for your continued generosity in all of these areas!

Advent resources from ELCA World Hunger: Advent calendars and study guides from ELCA World Hunger are available in the narthex.

Thank you from the NE IA Synodical Women's Organization: Each year you bless thousands of families with quilts and kits. Totals for the Northeast IA Synod: Quilts-**4536**, Baby-**893**, School-**4399**, Personal-**1976**, Fabric-**105**, blankets-**65**. Thanks to you and all your awesome gals, Jesus loves you! *Lea Norlinger, Mason City, IA (NE IA SWO board & LWR Contact).*

Dunkerton Community Christmas: today, December 5th. Soup & Santa, children's activities 5:00-7:00 p.m; 6:00- Christmas Tree Lighting, caroling at the Gazebo. Collecting free will donations. Non-perishable food items, toilet paper, and laundry soap donations go to the local Dunkerton Food Bank at the Baptist Church.

Advent Retreat: "The Patience of Mary - Letting go of what is, To welcome what is to come", December 10-12, 2021, at the Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque. This opportunity is sponsored by Contemplative Outreach NE Iowa. Contact CONElowa@gmail.com.