

ORDER OF WORSHIP
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – December 12th, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER-FEBRUARY WORSHIP 8:30AM

PRELUDE BY SHIRLEY BERGMAN

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 –3)

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

**1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.**

**2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

**3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.**

**4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.**

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears
to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth
the fruits of repentance; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

14Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

15The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

16On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

17The 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
18as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
19I 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.
20At 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

2Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

**3With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

4And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this
name is exalted.

**5Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

6Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Special Music: "O Come Little Children," Sung by Allison Bovy student of Jessica Saunders

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here,

he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

7John 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? 8Bear 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. 9Even now the ax 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."

10And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" 11In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." 12Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 14Soldiers 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."

15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John 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. 17His 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.”

18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**Please be seated.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 248 People, Look East

**1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

**Please stand as you are able.*

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Please be seated.*

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 peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. 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 the planet. 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, especially Stephanie Winklepleck, Dennis Bushkofsky, and Betsy Norland. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with 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.

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.

**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: ELW 247 Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Christmas Eve worship service: The Christmas Eve service at ALC will be at 4:30pm on Friday Dec 24. You are also welcome to go to the Christmas Eve service at Jubilee at 7:00pm on Friday, Dec 24 and the Christmas Day service at Jubilee at 9:00am on Saturday, Dec 25.

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.

Advent services at Jubilee: All are invited to attend midweek Advent services at Jubilee, at 5:30pm on the Wednesdays in Advent. The services are followed by a soup supper.

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!

Blue Christmas service Dec. 21 at Presbyterian Church in Jesup— The holidays can be a difficult time for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt. The Jesup Ministerial Association recognizes that Christmas can be a harsh reminder of how things used to be. All are welcome to join us as we seek God's love and care in the midst of the sadness, to set aside a time for quiet, healing reflection. Please join us for an Ecumenical and Community Blue Christmas Service on Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Jesup.

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

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!

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, Worship and Music.**

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.

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).*

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.**

Christmas Program: Our Sunday school kids have been working hard on their Christmas program. However, there has been a positive Covid case in one of our Sunday school families, so we will be postponing the Christmas program until January 2nd.

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:

Pastor: Pastor Kristen Rod
Music: Shirley Bergman
Usher: The Borlands
Reader: Mike Waring

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday December 12th:

8:30am Worship and communion

Tuesday December 14th:

10am -12pm Prayer Shawl

Wednesday December 15th: 5:30pm Advent Service at Jubilee

7:00pm Confirmation class

Sunday December 19th:

8:30am Worship and communion

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance: 12/5/21– 38

Current 12/10/21: 16,728.35

Offering: 12/5/21

Current: 3,900

Benevolence: 207

Improvement: 185

Non Synod Benevolence: 305

