

# Order of Worship for Nov 29, 2020

## The First Sunday in Advent

### Welcome

#### *Gathering*

Let us join together to worship the God who fulfills all promises, Jesus Christ, the hope born of Mary, and the Holy Spirit, who fuels our hope as we await Christ's return.

#### **Advent Wreath Lighting Week 1:**

With voices rising, rising like incense

We pray to you in hope, our God

**We pray to you in hope, our God**

In you alone we hope

You who stir up your power to save

You who come down to us

Unbounded love put into flesh and bones

Being all powerful

Becoming most vulnerable

That is how you make true love known

You call us to awaken, see you all around us

In migrant mother, in homeless vet, in raised hands and held breath

We pray to you in hope, our God

**We pray to you in hope, our God**

You are our hope

#### **Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle**

**Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel, vs. 1**

O come, o come, Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the son of god appear

Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, o Israel.

## **Confession**

Jesus, who comes as new birth,  
we have prepared for you  
with comfortable traditions and humble requests.

We have memorialized your birth  
as if it was a past act

and not the bold declaration of a living God.

We have rested in the safer hope of your work,  
abandoning our call as co-creators of the Beloved Community,  
harming your children with our ill-informed action and comfort-catering inaction.  
All this we humbly confess.

Help us remember in this season of anticipation  
that we prepare not only for you,  
but because of you.

Challenge us to examine our intentions,  
and to hold sacred both the act of preparing,  
and the transforming justice love of the one who comes. **Amen**

## **Forgiveness**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake  
God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in  
the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

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.**

## **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

4O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

5You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

17Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

18And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

19Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

## **Restore Us (Psalm 80) by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan**

### **Refrain:**

**Restore us Let your face shine**

**Restore us Give us your life**

### **Verse 1:**

**God, be with us here We need you now**

**Our hearts are always turning back to you**

### **Verse 2:**

**God, you've always been our saving love**

**Our hearts are always coming home to you**

### **Bridge:**

**Oh how, how you love us**

## **Children's Sermon**

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

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.

## **Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

[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.”

Sermon by Pastor Joelle Colville Hanson

Director for Evangelical Mission, Northeastern Iowa Synod

## **Hymn: 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.**

#### **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**

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world.  
Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. We pray especially for health care workers during this surge of Covid-19, and for teachers and other essential workers during this stressful time. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. We pray especially for those who are suffering from the economic effects of the pandemic. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. We pray especially for all who are suffering from Covid-19-- those who are sick, those who are dying, and those who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. 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.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Hymn: 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.**

### **Blessing**

May you find time for rest this season  
May you create space to prepare  
May the Lord our God fill you with hope  
May Jesus Christ be ever present in your heart  
May the Holy Spirit illuminate your way

**Amen**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

And have fun doing it.

**We will! Amen!**

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## BY THE NUMBERS

Check Register Balance 11/20/2020  
\$10,493.31  
Operating Bank Loan: \$4,912.27  
PPP Loan Balance:\$16,984 (Forgiven)

**Offering:**11/22/2020  
Current: \$2,850  
Benevolence: \$57  
Improvement: \$85  
Lutheran World Relief: \$50  
Womens Projects Memorial: \$67.50  
Jesup Ministerial: \$20

## Announcements:

**Christmas gifts for Bremwood Lutheran Home:** For many years, our congregation has provided Christmas gifts for the residents of Bremwood Lutheran Residential Treatment Center in Waverly. This year, due to the pandemic, Bremwood has suggested Walmart gift cards instead of an actual Christmas gift that is shopped for. This offers the opportunity to remember their residents while minimizing exposure to the coronavirus for those making donations. Counselors will shop for the residents utilizing the gift cards. If you would like to donate, you can drop off gift cards at the home of Mary Adams, 1215 Hawley Street, Jesup. A table has been set up inside the walk-in garage door for you to drop off your donations. The door will be open until 7 PM each day. You may also donate money through the church, marking "Bremwood" on your donation. Financial gifts for Bremwood must be received by December 14th to allow time for the counselors to shop. If you have questions you may call Mary at 827-3365 or (319) 269-3478. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Homebound members:** Mary Jo Sullivan is at Grand View in Oelwein

**Military members:** Jordan Leach is in the Air Force and is currently stationed in Sheppard AFB in TX If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office ([secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or (827-6626). We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

**Prayer Requests:** We know that this is currently an especially stressful time for health care workers and school employees. If you would like to include a health care worker or school employee by name (first name only) in the prayers of intercession for this

season, please tell Pastor Kristen ([pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or Jessica ([secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or (827-6626).

**Advent resources:** We will have Advent resources available for pickup on the porch of Shirley Bergman's house, across 6th street from the church. These will be available throughout the season of Advent. Each household is invited to take a pack of tea light candles (for making a home Advent wreath), an Advent devotional booklet, and a church Christmas songbook. In addition, families can take packets of children's bulletins for each of their children (bulletins are available for readers and pre-readers), copies of the words to "Go Tell it On the Mountain," and battery powered candles. Please return candles and songbooks after the Christmas season is over.

**Advent Sermon Series:** The sermons for the Sundays in Advent will be from members of the synod staff of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The Sermons will be based on the ELCA World Hunger Advent Study, [God With Us](#). A copy of this study may be downloaded from our church website.

**Virtual Christmas Pageant:** This year, our Christmas Eve service will be a virtual Christmas Pageant, with the United Methodist church.

**Special music:** We are looking for recordings of favorite Christmas tunes to use throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you are willing to record yourself or your family singing or playing a Christmas song, please let Pastor Kristen or Shirley Bergman know!