

SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE:

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Opening Scripture: Richard/Sharon Riley

Psalm 80:1 - 7 and 17 - 19

A Prayer for Restoration

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us. ³ Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. ⁴ How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. ⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us. ⁷ Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Opening Hymn: "Christ Be Our Light"

Welcome: Susan Stevens

Centering Prayer: Susan Stevens

Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son. Save us from undue love of the world, give us eyes to look and wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, The Light of the World, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(United Methodist Book of Worship #254)

Hymn: "Miracle Hymn"

Prayers of the People: Susan Stevens

Heavenly Father,

O God, thank you for this new season of Advent that will lead us to a joyous Christmas celebration. We are filled with hope and expectation for the new ways that we will experience your presence throughout these next several weeks. During this time of year as we think about how you came to the world to be one with us, we lift our prayers for those who are suffering and in need. Help us to not exclude anyone from your unconditional and inclusive love. We offer these prayers to you, knowing that your love is more than able to overcome evil with good, injustice with justice, and hatred with peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, we pray the words that he taught us to say together,

"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. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Richard/Sharon Riley

Isaiah 64:1 - 9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!
²As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. ⁸Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Sermon: Susan Stevens " Hope - A Light in the Darkness"



Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Kasey Barboza and Brenda Lawson

Scripture Reading: Susan Stevens

Luke 1:30 – 32

"And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Closing Hymn: "Glory (Let there Be Peace)"

Benediction: Susan Stevens

People of God, we wait with hope; we wait with courage; we wait with joy unspeakable, full of glory; we wait with the assurance our glorious Savior will come in power, in justice, and in peace. Go now, trusting and believing that it is so . . . in the name of Jesus, the Christ!

Amen