

## ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICE:

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

**Opening Scripture:** Kate Hanson

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 <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us. <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. <sup>4</sup> How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people? <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. <sup>6</sup> You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us. <sup>7</sup> Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

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

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

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

### **Opening Hymn:** "Christ Be Our Light"

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to You.  
Make us Your own, Your holy people. Light for the world to see.

#### **Refrain:**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. **Refrain**

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us Your bread, broken for others. Shared until all are fed. **Refrain**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us Your building, sheltering others. Walls made of living stone. **Refrain**

Many the gift, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another making Your kingdom come. **Refrain**

**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"

On a starry night in Bethlehem, a Child was born to bring light to men  
And our faith wade, our eyes grew dim in a candle's light, we found hope again.

**Refrain:**

There are miracles all around miracles yet to be found. Hid in every heart is an answered prayer  
Like a candle's flame, hope will lead us there.

When the darkness comes, let the light shine through a spark of faith will ignite in you  
In a candle's glow, a virgin's womb. In a simple prayer, in the empty tomb. **Refrain**

When the light has dawned on Christmas Day, we will lift one voice in endless praise  
When the light has dawned on Christmas Day, we will say

There are miracles all around, miracles here to be found.  
Hid in every heart is an answered prayer. Like a candle's flame, hope will lead us there

**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:** Kate Hanson  
Isaiah 64:1 - 9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!  
<sup>2</sup>As 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! <sup>3</sup>For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.  
<sup>4</sup>Since 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. <sup>5</sup>You 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? <sup>6</sup>All 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.  
<sup>7</sup>No 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. <sup>8</sup>Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do 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  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Keep awake! Be watchful! The Son of Man is coming with great power and glory. Hold your heads high, for your salvation is near.*

*On the first Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Hope reminding us how God's promised Messiah will break into our time and space to show us the way of salvation. May we stay alert for his coming.*

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

**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)"

One star burns in the darkness, shines with the promise, Emmanuel  
One child born in the stillness, living within us, Emmanuel

**Refrain:**

We're singing glory, glory. Let there be peace, let there be peace  
Singing glory, glory. Let there be peace, let it start in me

One voice speaks for the voiceless, hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel  
One love brings us together, now and forever, Emmanuel. **Refrain**

Do not be afraid, his love is strong, enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way; his love is strong enough to lead us

Do not be afraid, his love is strong, enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way, his love is strong enough to lead us (oh, lead us.) **Refrain**

Singing glory, (oh, we sing glory) glory  
Let there be peace (let there be peace), let it start in me

**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