

Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent, Yr. A



ADVENT: On the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Christ Jesus. To help us celebrate, we light candles on the Advent wreath to remind us, Jesus is the Light of the World. The evergreens remind us that Jesus is Life - and brings Life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end.

Ring of Bell

PRELUDE *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime,
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Light Three Purple Candles as Reading Begins

RDR: Welcome to the THIRD Sunday of Advent:
Today, we light the candle of JOY.
God is coming to be among us!
Angels announced it, saying:
"Good News of Great Joy!"
The Christ Child comes to bring
healing, wholeness, and fullness of Joy.

**ALL: Come Lord Jesus – that we may live
every day in the Joy of the Lord.**

HYMN VERSE: Verse 3

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn No. 242

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.

◆ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the
peace and security only you can provide. We reach
for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip
on the ways of war. We become impatient while
waiting and weary of keeping awake. Teach us to
live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our
trust in God, and awaken us to your advent among
us, that we may abound in the hope you have
promised. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to
God's own righteousness. † We are freed and
forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the
Savior. **C: Amen.**

HYMN *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* ACS 901

← See Page 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God.

**C: Strengthen our faith in your coming, that,
transformed by grace, we may walk in your way;
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

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

The desert blooms as God's people return from exile

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the
crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with
joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given
to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall
see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the
feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will
come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He
will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and
the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶then the lame
shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the
speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in
the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning
sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground
springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a
swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the
Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall

be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PSALM 146:5-10 We read responsively

L: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

C: who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

L: who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

C: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

L: The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

C: The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

Patience until the coming of the Lord

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

◆ HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The forerunner of Christ

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the

crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON Pastor D.J. Chatelaine

HYMN OF THE DAY

No. 246

Hark A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

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!**

◆ APOSTLES 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 grace, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. *Please be seated*

OFFERING—GLOBE OFFERING

*Children are invited to bring an offering to the globe
at the front of the church*

MUSICAL OFFERING by Elsie Braaten
Sweet Little Jesus Boy

◆ OFFERING PRAYER

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

**C: Through this meal, satisfy our parched
places, that we may rejoice and be for the
world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN No. 715

Christ Be Our Light

1 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.

2 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

3 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

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your
building, sheltering others, walls made of living
stone.

Refrain

5 Many the gifts, many the people, many the
hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to
one another, signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God our host, at this table you have fed us with
joy and gladness.

**C: Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in
the name of Jesus. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: May God who comes among us,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting,
peace in the darkness, and
good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

◆ HYMN *All Earth Is Hopeful* No. 266

1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the
labor of people who struggle to see how God's
truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; she
conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose
birth restores hope and courage to children of
this earth.

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be
prepared; new highways opened, new protocols
declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty
and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come
out in haste!

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same
Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world;
he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is
with us, and ever sets us free.

Ring of Bell

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus*

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PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR—D.J. Chatelaine

ACOLYTE—Henry Kruger

ADVENT WREATH FAMILY—Tyler, Nicole, Mabel & Dax
Eggert

WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Tanya Short

PIANO/KEYBOARD—Annette Thunhorst

GREETER(S)—Erica Aronson

COMMUNION SET-UP—Paul & Sharon Rechtzigel

SERVERS—Erica Aronson, Angie Eggert, Josh Lerfald

COFFEE—Lerfalds

TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Steve Johnson,

Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson, Luke Cordes

NOW THE HEAVENS START TO WHISPER ACS 901



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:
 Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.
 come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
 Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.
 In the lone - ly, in the strang-er, in the out-cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.
 Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.
 Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle MUSIC: Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
 TUNE: SUO GAN 8 7 8 7 D TUNE © 2006 GIA Publications Inc
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kenyon Area Internship Committee Surveys
 requesting your input are found on Entrance tables.
 Due today 12-14.

Christmas Slips In Honor or Memory – [Options: Plant or Repair Fund] are provided at Entrance Tables, and also attached to Friday e-mails.
 Slips Due: 12-17. Plant Delivery Window: 12-17 To 12-24.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 OL/SKU#09936 *Awake, Awake & Greet the New Morn* ELW # 242
 OL/SKU#57595 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* ACS #905
 OL/SKU #80229 *Christ Be Our Light* ELW 715
 OL/SKU #92276 *All Earth Is Hopeful* ELW 266

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jennifer Lorfald, Lavon Underdahl, Jim Fountaine, Dax Eggert,
 Larry Walker, Renee Spidahl-Carmichael, Tim Emerson, & Anne Laue.

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CALENDAR

Su 12-14

9 AM WORSHIP - ADVENT THREE
 10 AM Coffee
 10 AM FLCW Mtg in Joy Room
 10 AM SUN SCHOOL – class
** Internship Surveys DUE Today*

Tu 12-16

7 PM KAIC Meeting

We 12-17

5:30 PM Advent Supper
 6:30 PM Advent Worship
 7 PM COUNCIL

Su 12-21

9 AM WORSHIP - ADVENT FOUR
 S/S Christmas Program

We 12-24

4 PM CHR. EVE SERVICE

Su 12-28

9 AM Lay-Led WORSHIP
 Lessons & Carols