

**December 19, 2021 8:30am WORSHIP BULLETIN – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**Prelude** *Savior of the Nations, Come* by J.S. Bach

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

WL: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!  
Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved. (Psalm 80)c:

Now it's time to light the candles,  
Shining love in Jesus' name.  
When all people join together  
Earth will never be the same.

**C: Light will overcome the darkness:  
Share the love the Christ Child brings.**

**Candle Lighting Song**     *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (ELW #253, verse 4)

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you,  
O Israel.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: We worship this morning in the name of the Father, and the Son +, and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: 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.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
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.  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I declare that  
your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

***Savior of the Nations, Come*** (ELW #263 vs. 1-4)

**1 Savior of the nations, come;  
virgin's son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:  
God has chosen such a birth.**

**2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
but the mystic Breath of God,  
was the Word of God made flesh,  
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.**

**3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—  
from his throne, a virgin mild!  
Very God, and Mary's son,  
eager now his race to run!**

**4 From God's heart the Savior speeds,  
back to God his pathway leads;  
out to vanquish death's command,  
back to reign at God's right hand.**

**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**All : Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

***GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE, PREACHING AND SONG***

**FIRST READING Micah 5: 2-5a**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING Hebrews 10: 5-10**  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL Luke 1: 39-55**

*Before the Gospel is read:* **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the Reading:* **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Canticle of the Turning* (ELW #723)

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

*Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard

is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C: 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 into hell. 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.**

### **THE PRAYERS**

*After each petition..* P: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

### **SHARING A SIGN OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C: And also with you!**

### **GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST**

#### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY SONG**

*Give Thanks* (W&P #411)

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

WL: God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.  
Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.  
**Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **SANCTUS**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **COMMUNION HYMN**      *Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW #471)

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.**

### *Refrain*

**When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain***

- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain***

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

## **GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD**

### **BLESSING**

P: The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace. Amen.

## **SENDING HYMN**      *All Earth is Hopeful* (ELW #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.**

**SENDING**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**      *Savior of the Nations, Come* by J. Pachelbel

*Music by Nancy Betz*

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