



Service of the Word

December 27, 2020

Sunday After Christmas

"Believe This: The Time Has Come"

In Home Worship with First Lutheran Church

Online resources can be found on our website

<https://www.firstlutheransandpoint.org/online-worship.html>

Prelude (*Play music that prepares your heart, mind, soul, and body for worship. Create a place to build your Advent wreath with four candles and means for lighting them ready.*)

“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” — The Messenger

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome

Crossing the Threshold

The Good News that we have proclaimed for this Advent/Christmas season ends with a second chapter of Luke that starts, “When the time came...” Indeed, the time has come for us to move from the narrative of birthing to the narrative of redemption. The story of Jesus’ ritual cleansing as a child contains stories of people who had been waiting for this moment. But the time of waiting is over—for us too. Like Isaiah who says, “for Zion’s sake I won’t stay silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I won’t sit still,” we will not stop our songs of resistance until justice shines out like a light for all.

[This poem was written on a wall in a Concentration Camp during World War II. Composer Mark A. Miller put these words to music and will be the central focus of our Advent preparations this season.]

I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,
even when, even when it’s not shining.

Reader: The clouds begin to clear

Congregation: The clouds begin to clear

Reader: The horizon starts to glow

Congregation: The horizon starts to glow

Reader: We know we are not alone

Congregation: We know we are not alone

Prayer of the Day

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we have caught
throughout this season of Advent and Christmas
of your gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we have not been sure of tomorrow,
you have ignited the Light within us,

**People: ... and we have glowed with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

[Congregation joins choir recording in unison]

**I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,
even when, even when it's not shining.**

Pastor: Help us continue to proclaim far and wide
that the time has come for light to be among all people.

Amen.

[for online worship]

Pastor: You are invited to light your Christ candle along with y
our Advent candles at this time.

GATHERING SONG: “O Come All Ye Faithful” (ELW 257, st. 4)

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, | O come, let us adore him, |
| born this happy morning; | O come, let us adore him, |
| Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! | O come, let us adore him, |
| Word of the Father, | Christ the Lord! |
| now in flesh appearing: <i>Refrain</i> | |

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 (CEB)*

I surely rejoice in the Lord;
my heart is joyful because of my God,
because he has clothed me with clothes of victory,
wrapped me in a robe of righteousness
like a bridegroom in a priestly crown,
and like a bride adorned in jewelry.

As the earth puts out its growth,
and as a garden grows its seeds,
so the Lord God will grow righteousness
and praise before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I won't keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I won't sit still
until her righteousness shines out like a light,
and her salvation blazes like a torch.

Nations will see your righteousness,
all kings your glory.
You will be called by a new name,
which the Lord's own mouth will determine.
You will be a splendid garland in the Lord's hand,
a royal turban in the palm of God's hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time to Shine

"This Little Light of Mine" - Video online
[One verse of sign language for this song is learned each Sunday.]

'This Little Light of Mine' is a song that turns 100 years old this year! Originally thought to be written as a children's song in the '20s, in the '60s it became a very important song sung during the Civil Rights movement. Singing this song and learning to sign it in American Sign Language has helped us learn more about the importance of music in making the world a better place. We had a technical difficulty last week with Julia Neuder's teaching of the 4th verse, so we have another chance to learn this verse and sing it and sign it all together.

Everywhere I go.
I'm going to let it shine!
Everywhere I go.
I'm going to let it shine!
Let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine!

Thank you, everyone, for "singing by signing!" I have loved signing and singing with you. You have become part of a wonderful tradition of using this song to make sure everyone knows that their light was given to them by God and that God wants us to share that light with the world, just like the light from the star that shone down on baby Jesus! "This ritual of going out on my porch with my candle and song has helped me discover the heart of Christmas and I am going to keep singing it - just after sunset - everyday until the pandemic is over". Maybe longer, because this gift of light is a gift not just for Christmas, but throughout the year". Pastor Lori

Let's pray a repeat-after-me prayer.

Thank you, God...

for giving us light... and for giving us music... Help our hands dance... and our hearts sing... to spread more [hope] ... in the world... Amen...

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 22-40 (CEB)

When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

"Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,
because my eyes have seen your salvation.
You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.
It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and a glory for your people Israel."

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON -

SONG OF THE DAY: *Angels, from the realms of glory. (ELW #275, v 1,2, &4)*

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship,
 come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship,
 come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship,
 come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness (*especially*). Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For (*John, apostle and evangelist, and*) all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words, now and in creative ways throughout the week.

Opportunities to "Fill the Night" with Light

OFFERING

If you would like to offer financial support for the ministries of First Lutheran, you can mail them to the church. 526 S. Olive, Ave. Sandpoint, ID 83864

What gifts did you receive this season, from God? Others reflecting God's light?

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Carol of Resistance - *“Do You Hear What I Hear?”*

Introduction to the Carol

This carol was written in 1962 by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Inspired by seeing babies pushed in strollers in New York City while the dire threat of nuclear war loomed, Noel wrote, “said the night wind to the little lamb,” and “pray for peace, people everywhere.” The “star dancing in the night with a tail as big as a kite” can be interpreted as the star of Bethlehem but also what a nuclear missile looks like in flight. The composers said in an interview later that it was difficult to actually sing the song that year without crying. Indeed, our prayers for peace continue and the need to protect the children of the world and secure a future for them are as dire as ever. As the last song in our series, let us sing this Carol of Resistance, “a song high above the trees” with our voices “big as the sea.”

[the hymn begins]

1 Said the night wind to the little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite."

2 Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
"Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, Do
you hear what I hear?
A song, a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea,
With a voice as big as the sea."

3 Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
"Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king,
Do you know what I know?"

A Child, a Child shivers in the cold~
Let us bring him silver and gold,
Let us bring him silver and gold."

4 Said the king to the people everywhere,
"Listen to what I say!
Pray for peace, people, everywhere,
Listen to what I say!
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light,
He will bring us goodness and light."

Benediction

Pastor: You are invited to pick up the Christ candle or your fifth candle.
Hold it high for the Benediction:

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news
that we believe that good will prevail,
fill the night left by sadness with light.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that goodness alive in you
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.
Raise your voices and repeat after me...
"do not be afraid!"
"do not be afraid!"
Amen!

DISMISSAL

This is the mission we share in Christ's name:
To Praise God! Nurture Faith! And Serve All!
Go in Peace. The time is now!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES:

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PRAYERS: Please hold the following people in prayer for healing and new life:

Luther Park - Its staff, residents, families, and our management Company, Ecumen as they seek to care for one another and stay apart, waiting with patience for the pandemic to wane. .

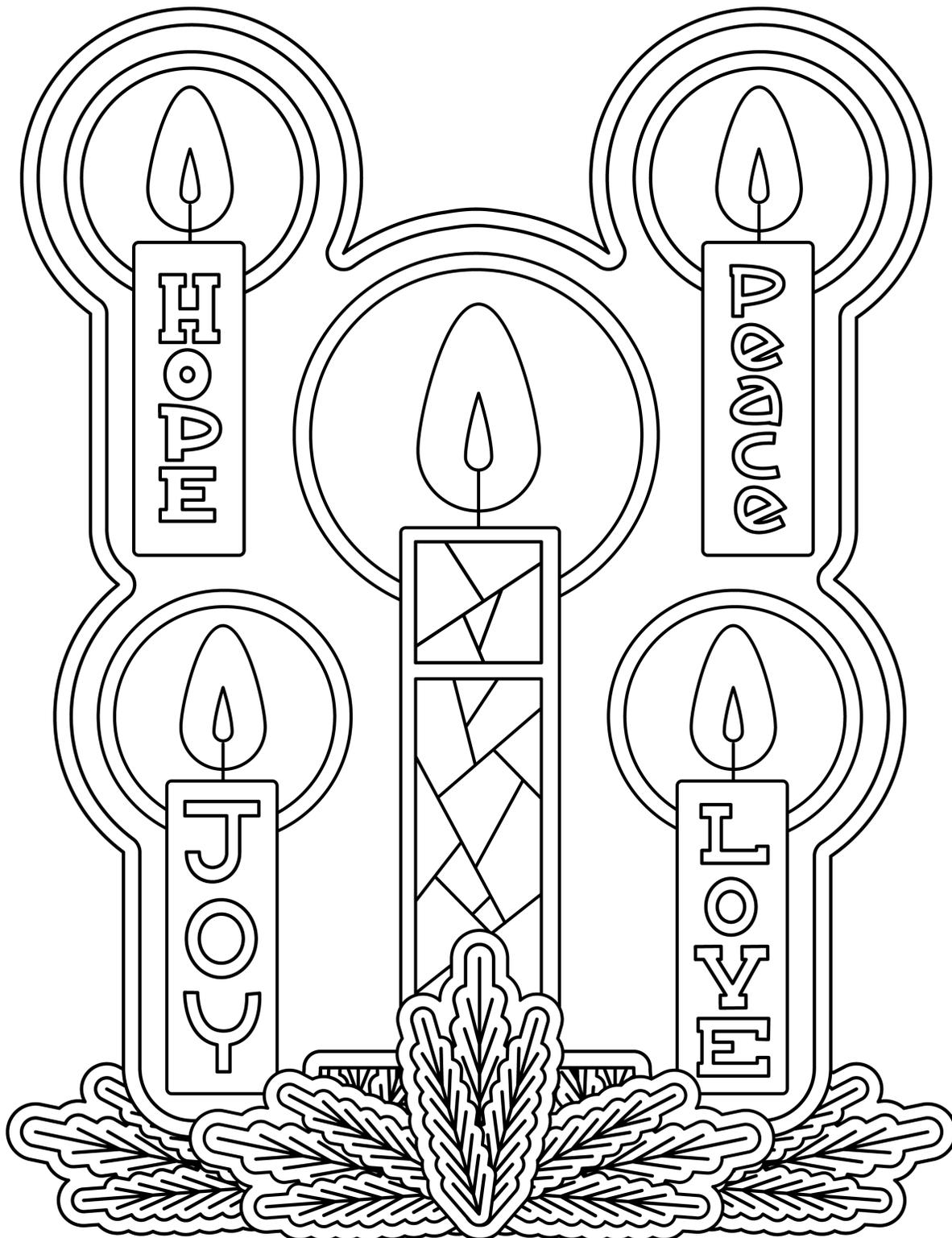
Our People and those connected to us: Chris Ingham; Randy Petersen; Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Gerda Burke; Debbie Haberlock; Kara Schripsema; Kai Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill; Jill Camp; Marguerite Suttmeier, Doris Hansen, and those on your hearts and minds today.

Family and friends of Michael Cressina upon his death December 15.

Our Congregation - As we seek leaders to serve on our 2021 Council, Estimate a Budget for 2021, and prepare for the Annual Meeting January 31, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ **Zoom Fellowship:** We will take a break this week and resume January 3rd. This week reach out to someone you have not talked to for awhile.
- ◆ **Firewood** - If you or a loved one is in need of firewood, please contact Firewood Rescue at Firewoodrescue2020@gmail.com .



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