

Worship Service ~ December 4, 2022, 9:00

Second Sunday in Advent

VISION: Be the body of Christ:

welcoming all, inspired by God, and sent out to live our Faith.

MISSION: Led by the Spirit to share God's grace.

Today's Worship Broadcast sponsored by Sharon Messelt and family in memory of Noel Messelt.

PRELUDE on *Rejoice, Rejoice* (ELW #242) by Mark Sedio

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LITANY FOR ADVENT

L: The Lord is coming! Is everything ready?

C: We are preparing our hearts to receive Him.

L: Are the paths clear for the whole human race to see God's salvation?

C: We will make the path straight for Him to travel; we will do our part to clear every stumbling block.

OPENING SONG ELW #242 *AWAKE, AWAKE AND GREET THE
NEW MORN* stz 1, 2

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold!

The Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing, his
humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness, the
thunder of his anthems rolls to shatter all hatred and blindness.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

L: "A voice cries out: 'Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God! Fill every valley; level every mountain. The hills will become a plain, and the rough country will be made smooth'."

C: As we wait in darkness, our hope is rekindled by the light of the Lord shining in the dark.

L: Last week we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath—to watch for the coming of the LORD.

Today we lit the second candle—the candle to prepare.

We want to learn to be builders of a highway for our God. Stir our hearts, O God, to prepare the way for your Son. May we always be ready to welcome Him.

C: Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who awakens our hearts to overcome the despair of our ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us in this season of waiting. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER LAB MINUTE

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Keep Your Lamps"* arr. Andre Thomas; Faith Choir, Glenn Terry, percussion

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #174 **CELTIC ALLELUIA**

R: A Gospel reading from the 3rd chapter of Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

MESSAGE Pastor John Klawiter

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #264 *PREPARE A ROYAL HIGHWAY* stz 1, 4

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

MUSICAL OFFERING “*Ukranian Bell Carol*” arr. Hart Morris; Bells of Faith, Dean Jensen, director



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boxes by the exit doors. Thank you for giving to
Faith!*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: We pray, **Eternal God,**

**C: you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to
thirsty ground. Receive these gifts and make us messengers of
your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: God, in your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

L: May the LORD bless us and keep us; May the LORD's face shine upon us and be gracious unto us, May the LORD look upon us with favor, + and give us peace.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG ELW #257 *O COME, O COME EMMANUEL* stz 1, 2
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and
night: in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*If you did not sign in prior to worship, you will have a few minutes
after the service to sign in as a voting member (per our Faith
constitution, a voting member has received communion and
financially given within the last 12 months).*



*Statement of Intent for 2023 giving can be
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651-464-3323 9:00 Worship is Broadcast on FM 95.9
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