



Welcome to Beautiful Savior!

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Advent – Tidings of Comfort and Joy

*“The Angel Speaks to
the Shepherds’ Curiosity”*

December 19, 2021 11:15 a.m.

O God, who brings comfort and joy, when we wait with anticipation of what will come, speak to our curiosity. Comfort us with your surprises and give us hearts that are thankful for all that you provide.

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

A: Assisting Minister

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC “Prepare the Way”

Eric Nuzum

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please kneel as you are able during a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord of Advent tells us to be watchful for his coming, keeping our lamps lighted, and our hearts clean. Therefore, let us confess to the Lord.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God and Father of all:

C: We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: God sent the Only Begotten Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show God’s infinite love and forgiveness for all. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of ✙ Christ who came and will come again.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - LOVE

A: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love. Scripture tells us “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18). God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God’s love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God’s love is there.

(Light Candle.)

A: We light this candle in Love.

C: On this day, we remember God is Love.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING HYMN

“People Look East” vv. 1 & 2

ELW 248

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

GATHERING ADVENT DIALOGUE

P: This season of Advent confronts many of our emotions.

C: Sometimes we are curious about what the future holds.

P: “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy.”

C: Let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place.

P: Let us make known what has been told to us about this child.

C: And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God who brings comfort and joy, when we wait with anticipation of what will come, speak to our curiosity. Comfort us with your surprises and give us hearts that are thankful for all that you provide. In Jesus’s name we pray.

C: Amen.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR MISSION STATEMENT

P: Although as individuals we are unique in many and various ways, we gather as a congregation for a common mission.

C: In Jesus’s name, we:

Bring Glory to God through fulfilling worship,

Serve God’s people, both within our congregation and without,

Learn about the Lord’s will for us through sharing and teaching, and

Connect within our membership and reach out to connect with others.

(Please be seated.)

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING

David Lochner

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A: The first reading is from the book of Zephaniah, the third chapter.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor
“The Angel Speaks to the Shepherds’ Curiosity”

(Please stand as you are able.)

CAROL OF THE DAY *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”* vv. 1 & 2

ELW 275

- 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.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown,
C: **we pray for peace.**

P: Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world,
C: **we pray for clarity.**

P: Where people doubt your presence and your word,
C: **we pray for trust.**

P: Where people are curious, and await the future with hopeful anticipation,
C: **we pray for wonder.**

P: Most of all, when the world longs for you,
C: **we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.**

P: We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior.
C: **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

STEWARDSHIP READING

Ecclesiastes 5:10

The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth, with gain. This also is vanity.

OFFERING VIDEO

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Together, let us pray:

C: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER – sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same;
by mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone;
oh hear us and bless us from heaven’s high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
as we forgive others, our sins take away;
in times of temptation, to lead us be near;
from evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o’er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again,
From all of creation, forever. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is a meal instituted by Jesus Christ that involves the receiving of God's forgiveness in a tangible form – we receive Jesus's life-giving body and blood in the presence of bread and wine (or grape juice). The meal is a time of remembrance and celebration.

Who can take part?

Holy Communion is something that not one of us has earned, so we receive it as God's free gift of life. The Church traditionally recommends that people be baptized before taking part, but all that is required is simply a heart that believes in Jesus Christ. If a person of any age wishes to be baptized, please let us know.

How does Holy Communion take place?

If you wish to take part, come forward as directed by the ushers. You will receive the wafer from the Pastor and the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant. If you wish to come forward for a blessing only, please cross your arms across your chest. You may also remain seated if you so wish.

HOLY COMMUNION

“Wexford Carol”

Vikki Collinsworth

POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

SUMMARY OF WORSHIP

(Please stand as you are able.)

BENEDICTION – sung to the tune of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Now may the good Lord bless and keep, his love in us increase;
Lift up his face with shining grace, and grant eternal peace.
To Father, Son, and Spirit, Eternal One-in-Three.
Be thanks and praise through all our days. And to eternity!

- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.
- 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, and share the Good News, for Christ is near.

C: We will! Thanks be to God!

P: And next time ...

C: ... we'll invite a friend!

We thank you for worshiping with us today.

We hope to worship with you again in the near future!

*Many thanks to all those on our tech team
for making this livestream service possible.*

Confession and Forgiveness are from the Liturgy by Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel, modified.

The Advent Candle lighting liturgy is from the Rev. Will Ryan, First Christian Church (DOC), Burlington, Iowa.

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HELPFUL INFORMATION

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – The 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. worship services will be livestreamed through our website and YouTube pages. People can gather with us in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. to worship in a more traditional style in person. We offer a more contemporary style worship service at 11:15 a.m. People can also worship in their homes with the livestream at 9 or 11:15 a.m., as well as access the recording of either service any time after worship concludes.

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