



WELCOME IN THE NAME OF THE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN JESUS CHRIST!

Please use and share the following resources so that together we may worship God the Father who created us, God the Son who saved us, and God the Holy Spirit who called us to faith and who continues to call us to love God and neighbor.

Sunday, November 29, 2020, First Sunday in Advent

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE

Saviour of the Nations Come

Hugo Distler

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH, WEEK 1 LITANY

L: At every beginning there is a yearning
for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We gather together to expect the unexpected
and imagine the unimaginable.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We wait for the day
when God will recycle tanks into tractors
and transform minefields into soccer fields.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We stay awake by telling stories
that offer a glimmer of a future

and agitate dormant hope within us.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now
with the lighting of this candle,
whose flame brings warmth to winter
and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

Light the first candle.

SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

257, st. 1-2

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

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

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he
will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to
the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its
leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you
know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until
all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass
away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but
only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a
man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,
and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not
know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or
at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say
to all: Keep awake.”

SERMON FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Tanya Cartwright

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

Hymn of the Day

Change My Heart, O God

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Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.
You are the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953. Text © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

Apostles Creed

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**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.**

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.
People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Awaken us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for your world during this time of pandemic. Give wisdom and understanding to researchers and logistical experts as they seek to develop and distribute a coronavirus vaccine. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world, especially medical and care-giving people who tend to the needs of people with COVID-19. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or whose jobs are threatened by the pandemic, for those in poverty or facing food insecurity, and for those who struggle to keep their businesses viable. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and sickness, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you [PAUSE]... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,

the long-expected Savior fill you with love,

the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

✠ now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

People, Look East

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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.

- 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.

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Robert Powell

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Faye Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Charlotte Moyer, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Drenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff

Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Jerry Stoutland, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

Minister	Pastor David Rowe
Assisting Minister	Tanya Cartwright
Cantor(s)	Brenda Searle
Altar Guild	Cheryl Miller & Karen Dudley

THANK YOU TODAY'S CANTOR: BRENDA SEARLE

GOD'S BARNYARD SALE STARTING NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020. There are two ways to be involved in God's Barnyard this year.

- First, you can make an online donation to fulfill Jerusalem's goal to "purchase" a Family Farm. Together as a congregation, we can support the start of a family farm with animals, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training for a family living in poverty. You can find the link to our donation page at jerusalem.lutheran.com. Look for upcoming events and click on God's Barnyard. That will lead you to a spot to CLICK which will take you directly to our secure donation page. You can even track our progress on that page!
- The second way to be involved in God's Barnyard is to utilize the God's Barnyard Order Form that can be found in the Winter Newsletter. (You can also take a look at the order form at our website.) Make your selection on the order form and mail it, along with a check made out to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, to 252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven PA 17972. Or just drop it off at the church office. We have some ornaments and cards to match your order that can be obtained at your request. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Covert.

PLEASE SIGN-UP! November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent; the season preparing us for the birth of Jesus. We need volunteers to light the Advent Wreath during the 8 and 10:30 services. A sign-up sheet is on the sign-up table for individuals or small groups to volunteer to do the lighting!

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 9:15 am, with a snow date or COVID date of December 20 (or the closest possible Sunday thereafter). The key items of business... through computer video (Zoom). ALSO, if worship would have to be suspended for the pandemic, please tell the Sunday guides (ushers) if you have Zoom, in case we need to hold an entirely virtual annual meeting.

WE WILL DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS ON DECEMBER 13, immediately after the 10:30 service and will be serving pizza for lunch in the social hall. By following the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we feel we can do

this safely. If you are able to join us, please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby. We will also need help on **January 3, 2021 at 11:30 am** to remove the decorations.

CANCELLATION OF SERVICES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC & WEATHER. If circumstances arise that worship and Sunday school need to be cancelled, the news will be announced on Facebook, the church website (www.jerusalem.lutheran.com), and on the office answering machine (570-385-2657). Please help us pass the word to the others!

STAFF AND LEADERS

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Deborah Reed, *President of Church Council* dreed1955@comcast.net