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The Very Rev. Ansley Tucker, Diocesan Administrator

The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest

***“Together in Christ
we seek to love God and
to love and serve all others”***

November 29, 2020

Advent 1

Sunday Virtual Worship Service



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.

Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher presides & preaches.

Organ prelude - Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: Good morning. As we meet virtually this day, we begin by remembering the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through the many generations.

As we meet, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent. Let us share in these signs of welcome.

Welcome: Welcome to this service of worship on the First Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday in our new church year. My name is Paul Schumacher, and I am the interim priest-in-charge here at the Church of The Advent, during this time of transition.

We invite you to come and join our readers, prayer leaders, music director and choir members, along with our technical team, as we offer prayer and praise to our Creator. Come, come with your doubts, your strengths, your weaknesses, and your fears, for God loves us all and all are welcome in this space.

Scripture Sentence of the Day: Scripture shares with us, “Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Today, we light the first candle on the Advent wreath. The candle of Hope. Please join me in the spirit of this prayer.

Invitation: We come to this new season of Advent and gather around a wreath to light candles. The wreath reminds us of the circle of our human community and the lights illuminate the many ways in which we bring ourselves to the Incarnation, God’s longed-for presence among us – human and holy, Emmanuel – God with us and God coming to us.

Scripture: John 1: 1-4: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. the Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Lighting the Candle and Illuminating the Stories of Hope: (*Light one purple/blue candle.*) We light this candle for the Christmas story that shines hope on our lives.

Naming Our Stories of Hope: The Advent season is a season of stories that bring us into the presence of God. The story of the birth of Jesus is told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, in carols that we sing, in legends as old as the first century Common Era and as new as story books on a bookstore shelf. We celebrate today, our stories of hope.

Let us pray together: **Emmanuel, we find your story in the pages of scripture and the whispers of all our storytelling. Help us in this Advent season to become storytellers of hope for our time. Amen**

Opening Hymn: CP 89 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(Plainsong: Arr. Healey Willan © 1966 Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission.)

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,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us her ways to go.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law,
In clouds and majesty and awe.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty power to save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

Act of Praise: A Prayer (*from the Lutheran prayer book*)

Please join me in the spirit of this prayer:

O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world. This we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day:

Almighty God, **give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Chat @ the Chancel:

Song: The Wise May Bring Their Learning (Anon 1880 ©Public Domain)

The wise may bring their learning,
The rich may bring their gold;
And some may bring their greatness,
And glories new and old;
We too would bring our treasures
To offer to the King.
We have no wealth nor wisdom;
What shall we children bring?

We'll bring him hearts that love from,
We'll bring him thankful praise,
And young souls meekly striving
To walk in holy ways.
And these shall be the treasures
We offer to the King,
And these the gifts that even
The poorest child may bring.

We'll bring the little duties,
We have to do each day,
We try our best to please him
At home, at school, at play.
And better are these treasures
To offer to our King,
Then richest gifts without them,
Yet these a child may bring.

Psalm: 80: 1-7, 16-18 (BAS Pg. 812)

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the Word of God is scripture,
For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: VU 186 “Now The Green Blade Rises”

(Words: John M. C. Crum 1928 Music: Mediaeval French Carol; harmony Martin Fallas Shaw © 1928 Oxford University Press)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Gospel: Mark 13:24 - 37

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then 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.

‘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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It 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. Therefore, 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher

Affirmation of Faith:

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People Nov 29, 2020

Lord, may I pray not because I want something from You, but always because I want You.
I will end each petition with "Come Lord Jesus"
Please respond with "and Hear Our Prayer"

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray. O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign.
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind; that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs. We pray especially for Dianne, Sheila, Alice, Maureen, Barb, Mae, Dimas, Lorna and any others you wish to name now, either aloud or silently in your heart.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate all of life's joys; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we pray for all who mourn. We ask that they find comfort in You. We ask for your strength for them in their time of need. Let them know they are loved and wrap them in the love of You.

Holy Father we ask that all who mourn will feel your warmth, your gentle hands upon them.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes among us with great might, and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

May the God of Hope fill you all with joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to share in his forgiveness. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing:

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God, our Creator,
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, And the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.
And may the blessing of the God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this day and
forever more. Amen.

Shared Ministry:

Commissioning Hymn: CP 505 “Be Thou My Vision”

(text: Irish Hymn [8th Century] music arr. Martin Shaw [1875-1958]; © Arr. Oxford University Press)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor the world's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when victory is won,
May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Commissioning:

Stir up your power, Lord Jesus Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the
dangers of not being children of the Light. Keep us safe until your new day comes into all
Creation, for you are the Holy One who lives and reigns with God our Creator, and the Holy
Spirit, Divine in power and majesty, now and forever. **Amen.**

TODAY WE PRAY

Pray for the Lusitanian Church.

*Pray for Ansley our Diocesan Administrator, Anna our Bishop Elect,
& Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge.*

Pray for Church of the Advent & Diocese of Yukon.

In the Selkirk Region for St. Peter, Lakehill.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*Today, we remember Dianne, Rick & Barb, Sheila, Alice, Carol Ann,
Joan, Maureen, Barb, Azeita, Margaret, Mae, & Dimas.*

We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.