

**11-29-2020 - Worship Guide - Advent 1 - [Holding Hope](#) (HEP = Holden Evening Prayer)**  
**[CLICK HERE](#)** for Holden Evening Prayer music Adapted for the Season of Advent 2020

**Introduction**

*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.*

**Welcome**                    *Please have a candle and Communion elements ready for worship.*

**Candle Lighting: "Procession" HEP & "Joyous Light" (#561) v. 1**

**Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;  
The light no darkness can overcome;  
Stay with us now and help us not to fear,  
For the day is in your care,  
Let your light scatter the darkness,  
And shine within your people here.**

**Joyous light of heavenly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
You who sing creation's story,  
shine on ev'ry land and race.  
Now as morning breaks around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.**

**Confession & Peace\***

You bring our fear into the light of love;  
We prefer to hide in the shadows.  
Savior have mercy  
**Savior have mercy**

You promise healing for the earth;  
We turn our back on our common world.  
Christ have mercy  
**Christ have mercy**

You come near in the vulnerable word made flesh;  
We worship distant idols of celebrity and power.  
Savior have mercy  
**Savior have mercy**

Christ's judgment is not vengeance, *an eye for an eye*;  
Christ's peace is not false, *a veil for injustice*;  
Christ comes to break the spear, to silence the guns  
and still our warring souls.  
May the peace of Christ Jesus rule our world and heal our hearts.  
**Amen. Let us [Hold Hope](#).**

**Hymn of Praise: ELW 254 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (TUNE: #631 HYFRYDOL)**

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**Prayer of the Day\***

God of unveiled truth,  
faithful flame in times of darkened sun and waning moon:  
Lift up our unknowing hearts, and waken our sleeping love  
To announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace and hope;  
Through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come, Amen.

**Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 (Inclusive Version)**

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would shake before you!

As fire kindles the brushwood  
and the fire makes water boil,  
make your Name known to your adversaries,  
and let the nations tremble before you!

When you did awesome things  
that we could not have expected,  
you came down,  
and the mountains quaked in your presence!

From ages past no ear has ever heard,  
no eye has ever seen any God but you  
intervening for those who wait for you!

Oh, that you would find us doing right,  
that we would be mindful of you in our ways!  
You are angry because we are sinful;  
we sinned for so long—how can we be saved?

All of us became unclean and soiled,  
even our good deeds are polluted.  
We have all withered like leaves,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

No one calls upon your Name,  
there is none who clings to you,  
for you hid your face from us  
and delivered us into the hands of our sins

Yet you are our mother and father, YHWH;  
we are the clay and you are the potter,  
we are all the work of your hands.

Don't let your anger go beyond measure, O God,  
don't remember our sins forever,  
for we are all your people

**Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... Thanks be to God**

## **Childrens' Time**

### **Hymn: "Magnificat" HEP**

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.**

**Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,  
strong is your kindness evermore.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one,  
humbling the proud of heart**

**You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,  
and uplifted the humble of heart,  
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,  
and left the wealthy no part.**

**Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,  
strong is your justice, strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,  
kindness forever more.**

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.**

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37 (Inclusive Version)**

[Jesus said:] "But in those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Promised One is near, right at the door. The truth is, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it—neither the angels of heaven, nor the Only Begotten—no one but Abba God. Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come.

“It is like people traveling abroad. They leave their home and put the workers in charge, each with a certain task, and those who watch at the front gate are ordered to stay on the alert. So stay alert! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows or at early dawn. Do not let the owner come suddenly and catch you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: stay alert!”

***Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... Thanks be to God***

### **Message**

**Song of the Day: ELW 726 “Light Dawns on a Weary World”**

**Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.**

*Refrain*

**The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

**Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain***

**Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain***

### **An Advent Creed**

**We believe in God the Creator of heaven and earth.  
The one who is full of patience,  
who is not afraid of silence,  
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.  
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,  
and who does not jostle for attention.**

**We believe in God the Christ Child, Saviour of creation,  
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,  
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,  
who frequently took time alone with his patient Abba,  
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,  
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,  
whose silence overpowered their words,  
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,  
sometimes arriving with obvious power,  
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.**

**We believe in one God  
who patiently waits for us,  
and who longs for us to do the same.**

### **Offering**

- **Text:** to number 833-893-0362 text GIVE
- **Website:** [www.slcmmv.org](http://www.slcmmv.org) and click on GIVE
- **Mail:** Salem, 2529 N. Laventure Rd, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
- THANK YOU to those who have been contributing offerings through one of these methods. If you have not yet made the opportunity to give, every and any amount makes a difference; so please consider submitting your offerings so that we (together) continue to honor God and support Salem's ministry & mission.

### **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. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God. **Mercy becomes You.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God. **Mercy becomes You.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. 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. **Mercy becomes You.**

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 underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. We especially remember Your grace through our partners: Neighbors in Need, Family Promise, Friendship House, Oasis Teen Shelter, and many others. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God. **Mercy becomes You.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God. **Mercy becomes You.**

*For what or whom else do the people pray?*

*(Zoom users: Please unmute or use chat feature to offer your petitions)*

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. **Mercy becomes You.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Holy Communion\***

God be with you.	<b>And also with you.</b>
Lift up your hearts.	<b>We lift them up to God.</b>
We give thanks to God.	<b>Thank You God for Your grace.</b>

Mystery of winter skies,  
we thank you in the darkening hour  
for opening our eyes  
to see your starlit beauty;  
for parting the wide heavens  
to send your gentle light;  
for offering your word  
to take our mortal flesh.

The Messiah was promised by those  
who shared your dream of peace;  
John the Baptist cleared the Messiah's way  
with words of desert fire;  
Mary and Joseph accepted his coming  
with tenderness and faith;  
We know that Jesus draws near again  
to show us who we really are  
with honesty and love.

Now we take up the song of hope  
that we might awaken  
to the Messiah's coming among us  
and the world be touched  
by the footfall of Jesus' glory.

**Holy: ELW 191**

**Holy, holy, holy are you,  
God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Words of Institution**

### **Christ's Prayer** (*Inclusive*)

*We pray together in the Spirit that Jesus taught:*

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.  
Eat and drink, this is Christ's **HOPE** for you.

### **Lamb of God: ELW 195**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

### **Prayer after Communion\***

Eternal God, we thank you that in Christ you give yourself into our hand:  
May we who have tasted life proclaim the coming feast when many will come from  
east and west, from north and south to greet the Savior of all; we ask this in Jesus'  
name. **Amen.**

### **Announcements**

### **Final Blessing: HEP**

Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.  
**May God, Creator bless us and keep us,  
May Christ be ever light for our lives,  
May the Spirit of Love be our guide and path,  
For all of our days.  
A -- men.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Messiah.  
Thanks be to God.

**Coffee Hour** follows after Worship.

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