**December 5, 2021 Advent TWO COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Pre Service Slides

10:30 AM

Screen

**Prelude (Colin Bonneau)**

Pulpit

News and announcements

Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, Baptism on 12, Devo?

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**Call to Worship**

O Gracious God, we come before you this day:

**waiting, waiting.**

With trepidation and longing:

**waiting, waiting.**

With joy, anticipating the glorious news:

**waiting, waiting.**

With expectant delight at the miraculous babe to be born:

**waiting, waiting.**

With wonder at the promise of salvation:

**waiting, waiting.**

With hearts open to your message of love:

**waiting to feel your presence near us.**

O Gracious God,

**we come before you this day to worship as we wait. Amen.**

Pulpit

**Opening Prayer**

Holy One, as the days grow shorter

and the nights lengthen,

**be our inner light, we pray.**

Keep glowing in our hearts—

so that what we think and say and do

comes from a place of calm and compassion.

**When so much distracts and disturbs,**

**anchor us in your deep love.**

Remind us that even while we live in this world,

you are our everlasting home.

Bless our gathering together,

that our minds may be calm and alert

**and our hearts open to your grace. Amen.**

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**Opening Hymn: VU 28** *Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness*

Center

**Advent Wreath Candle Lighting**

Malachi proclaimed: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way!

**We are preparing to meet our Way and our Light, Jesus. How shall we prepare?**

Not by collecting bulbs and bobbles, not by wrapping trinkets and tinsel.

God comes on a cold night within a naked baby in a poor stable.

**The baby is Jesus, the Messenger and the Message that you are God’s beloved.**

*Two Advent candles are lit.*

Welcome to Advent one and all.

**These weeks, we are being emptied of clutter and chaos. The Spirit comes into those opened and empty places.**

These weeks, let us journey together to the manger, which is now empty but will soon be overflowing with love.

**Advent Hymn:** AGCS 61

*Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,*

*who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.*

*The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release.*

*God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.*

Center

**Reading from Scripture:**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. **2**But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; **3**he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. **4**Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
    make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
    and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
    and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’

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We respond:

In ages past, disciples, prophets, priests and historians wrote down their faith.

**This is a faithful witness of our ancestors.**

Word of God for us today.

**Thanks be to God.**

Pulpit

**Sermon:** *Emptied of clutter and chaos let the Spirit come*

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**Hymn: VU 8** *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*

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**Invitation**

It is the season of Advent, the season of gifts and giving. With love in our hearts, let us worship God with our offerings as we anticipate in wonder the birth of the Christ child. The offering will now be received.

**OFFERING**

**DOXOLOGY VU #14 verse 1**  *To A Maid Whose Name Was Mary*

**Prayer over offering**

Abundant God, sustain in us a willing spirit to serve your purpose in the world.

Inspire us to share peace where there is discontent, to bring healing in the place of hurt, to shine your love into the overlooked corners of our world.

Remind us of the joy of reaching out to you even as you already draw us near.

Bless all that we offer today. Amen.

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**Prayers of the People with MV 220**

**Prayer Refrain MV 220**

***Peace*** *shines as the solitary star,*

*Faith is the inner light.*

*You and I together mirror the Light of Lights*

*and illumine the pathway home.*

Gracious and Wonderful God, we come to your word seeking refuge from the chaos of the world. Hug us gently so that we may feel your comforting Holy Spirit.

Fill the yearning of our hearts and souls with your love and peace.

Feed us with your holy word so that our longing will cease.

We come exhausted from fear, anxiety, stress, despair, and frustration.

Allow us to rest in your love and ease our burdens.

We come, O Lord, to receive the words of scripture. Amen.

**Prayer Refrain MV 220**

Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
    for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.  
**…**  
**79**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
    to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

**Prayer Refrain MV 220**

***Peace*** *shines as the solitary star,*

*Faith is the inner light.*

*You and I together mirror the Light of Lights*

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**The Lord’s Prayer (spoken VU 916)**

Center

**COMMUNION** (using spoken liturgy)

Invitation for Communion

As we make our way into the Advent season, we gather here for communion.

This table will be familiar to some; to others, it may be a new experience.

To some, the ritual will be comforting and familiar— an ongoing source of strength; to others, it may seem strange. But know that you are welcome here. Know that above all else. There is nothing you have to believe to come here, nothing you have to do.

You see, it is Christ’s table, not ours. He is the one who invites and hosts and welcomes.

He is the one whose joy it is for us to join him.

It is a table for all. So come, and share this time.

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Come, let us gather as God′s people.

**We come, God′s children, to this table.**

Come, open up to God!

**We open ourselves to God.**

Let us offer praise and thanks to God.

**We shout our praise and thanks to God.**

We come this day bound together by the Spirit.

We are One with each other and with people of God from the past.

We come this day bound by our Friend and Redeemer Jesus.

We are One with each other and all his disciples.

We come as his friends did….to watch bread broken.

We come as his disciples did…to witness him serve all.

We comes together with our neighbours, and all the saints of heaven…

(using spoken liturgy)

**Holy, Holy, Holy God, 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.**

Gathering with all your saints, we come before you ready to shed our fears and loneliness:

Ready to accept your grace; ….. Ready to have our spirits replenished;

Ready to partake in this shared meal. Ready to hear again the amazing story….

That you came to Earth, as a human, to live, love and serve.

That you followed that journey to its end, even when it meant dying

**That on the last night with your disciples….And after supper….**

And so we open our hearts to you God, and to this community,

and in doing so…

open our lives to the wheat, the juice, the story and the reality of our faith.

(using spoken liturgy)

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

Shower down on these elements your Holy Spirit.

Shower down on our partaking of this sacred meal your Holy Spirit.

Come so that our eating and drinking this day binds us to Christ.

Come so that our nourishment, from Christ, allows us to serve, like Christ.

Come all you who are weary and I will give you rest.

Come all you who are thirsty and I will give you Grace.

The body of Christ and his very passion is poured out for you this day.

Center

Communion Distribution

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**Hymn: VU 19** *Kindle a Flame*

**Commissioning**

As we go forth in this Advent season, let there be peace and light!

**Amen. Shalom. Peace. Amen.**

Post Service Slides

**Postlude (Colin Bonneau)**

Today’s prayers were written (or inspired by) Barbara Johns, Juanita Austin, Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovich, Gill Le Fevre, Judy Sears and Carman McClelland. They are used with permission, taken from Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022.