

Midweek Advent Service

Wait Upon the Lord With Faith

December 1, 2021

6:30 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you."

(Galatians 3:8)

PRELUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

setting by Jacob B. Weber

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Please stand

OPENING HYMN

331 The Advent of Our King

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.

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- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.
- Δ 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord.

People: **Be strong and courageous.**

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord. That's what Abraham did, even though he was about a hundred years old.

People: **And Sarah's womb was barren.**

Pastor: Still, Abraham waited in faith.
People: **Fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised.**

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord.
People: **Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
People: **We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with You. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from Your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater

Pastor: Believe and receive the good news! God sent His Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show His infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of ✠ Christ who came and indeed, will come again.
People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord.
People: **Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!**

KYRIE

“Forgive Us Lord”

Stephen M. Fearing

**Forgive us, Lord, for times when hope was lost,
and moments when we never thought to trust,
For times when we despair and forget
that you are where all joy and truth have met.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
and help us hope and trust you without end.**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth Your power and might, just as You did in the days of Abraham and Sarah; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit—God forever.

People: **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 17:1-9

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ² I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

⁹ Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 4:13-21

¹³ It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

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¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Alleluia for Advent"

Patrick M. Liebergen

*Alleluia! Prepare for the Lord!
Alleluia! Sing out in accord!
Hear the songs of the angels ring out through the night!
Alleluia! He is coming, the Lord of Light!*

*Alleluia! Rise up, hear this call!
Alleluia! Rejoice one and all!
For the child infant lowly will come from above!
Alleluia! He will bring you God's peace and love!*

*Alleluia! Prepare for the King!
Alleluia! Let voices now ring!
Hear the songs we are singing with joy and good cheer!
He shall come that holy night!
Prepare for the Lord of Light!*

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

setting by Jacob B. Weber

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we wait for You.

People: **More than watchmen wait for the morning--**

Pastor: More than watchmen wait for the morning.

People: **Lead us in Your truth and teach us.**

Pastor: For You are the God of our salvation.

People: **For You we wait all the day long.**

Pastor: O God, inspire us to wait for You faithfully.

People: **Serve You joyfully.**

Pastor: And give to others generously.

People: **Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.**

Pastor: Courage for the fainthearted.

People: **Hope for the discouraged.**

Pastor: And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.

People: **As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heav'n enthroned.
- 4 Thou, the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

setting by Charles W. Ore

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher: Theodore Laesch

Liturgist: Ellory Glenn

Instrumentalist: Jen Schmidt, flute

Organist & Director: Ryan Meyer

Accompanist: Carolyn Rusnak