

Midweek Advent Service

Wait Upon the Lord With Hope

December 8, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Please note: This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope.

(Psalm 130:5)

PRELUDE

“Hark the Glad Sound”

setting by Benjamin M. Culli

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Please stand

OPENING HYMN

349 Hark the Glad Sound

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

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4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

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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 Isaiah said.

People: Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

Pastor: They shall mount up with wings like eagles.

People: They shall run and not be weary.

Pastor: They shall walk and not faint. 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 peace was lost,
and moments when we never thought to love,
For times when we oppress and offend
And fight for things which kill us in the end.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
and help us be in peace with all our kin.**

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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 Isaiah the prophet; 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

Isaiah 40:27-31

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:22-25

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childhood right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul"

by Marty Haugen

*To You, O God, I lift up my soul;
My spirit seeks refuge in You.
From all sin and disgrace
Keep me sheltered by Your grace,
For I trust that Your promise is true.*

*O set my feet on pathways of peace
And teach me to walk in Your ways.
Let Your truth be my light,
My salvation shining bright;
I will serve You the length of my days.*

*Remember, God, Your mercy and love,
Forgive me for times when I fall;
For Your mercy is great
To the humble ones who wait,
To the lowly who answer love's call.*

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*The path of God is love without end
To pilgrims who walk in God's ways.
Teach our hearts, make us wise;
For to You we turn our eyes.
We will serve You the length of our days.*

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."

- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

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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

"Comfort, Comfort These My People"

setting by John Leavitt

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

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

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POSTLUDE

"Fanfare and Advent Toccata"

David Lee Heinzman

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher: Alex Goodwin

Liturgist: Theodore Laesch

Singer: Mark Petersen

Organist & Accompanist: Ryan Meyer