

Sunday Morning Worship Celebration

A Surprising Hope

December 22, 2024

Advent 2024: Living in
Hope

Gathering

Gloria Patri

Welcome & Announcements

Praise

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting | Hebrews 10:5-10

Trent & Melinda Blankenship

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Prelude | "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Presented by Maria Dresch, a piano student of Amy.

Call To Worship | Isaiah 12:2-6 (Responsive)

Leader: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

People: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

Leader: "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

All: Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise | Come Thou Almighty King (Open Our Hearts) [Default Arrangement]

Confession & Assurance

Need of Confession | Isaiah 6:5

And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

Unison

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon | Isaiah 6:6–7

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

Affirmation of Faith

Unison

In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem to become one with us. In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea to teach us how to live. In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary to bear away our sin. In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph’s garden to defeat death’s power over us. In love you ascended beyond the clouds to be our reigning Lord. You came to love us so that we need never feel unloved, deserted, alone, condemned.

Hymn of Praise | Exult In The Savior's Birth [Messenger Hymns: Advent]

Corporate Prayer & Giving

The Lord's Prayer (unison) / Pastoral 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 the day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory | "Wexford Carol"

Arranged by Elaine Hagenberg.

Doxology

Hearing of the Word

Sermon Text | Isaiah 42:1-9, "A Surprising Hope"

[1] Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. [2] He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; [3] a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. [4] He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. [5] Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: [6] "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, [7] to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. [8] I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. [9] Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Psalm of Response | Joy To The World [Sufjan Stevens]

TH #195 for lyrics & tune. Worship team uses lead sheet.

Sending

Benediction

Postlude
