## **Second Sunday of Advent**

December 6, 2020 (Real Church Virtual)

## **Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

C: Amen.

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, # comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## All Earth is Hopeful

#### Verse 1

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task; this the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

#### Verse 2

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

#### Verse 3

Mountains a valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

#### Verse 4

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all! C: And also with you!



## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. n<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

## Psalmody: Psalm 80:1-

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

<sup>2</sup>before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

<sup>6</sup>You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>17</sup>But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

<sup>18</sup>Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

## Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

P: A reading from... C: Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### Sermon - Pastor Paul

## **Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

## Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

## **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.

## **Final Blessing**

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

C: Amen.

## **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Closing Song on next page.)

#### **Adore**

#### Verse 1

You stepped down from heaven. Humbly, You came. God of all creation here with us. In a starlit manger, Emmanuel, Light of the world here to save.

#### Chorus

Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him! The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.

#### Verse 2

Wise men bring their treasures, shepherds bow low, angel voices sing of peace on earth. What have I to offer to heaven's King? I will bring my life, my love, my all.

#### Chorus

Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him! The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.

#### Bridge

Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King. Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening. At Your feet, we fall. Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King. Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening. At Your feet, we fall.

#### Chorus

Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him! The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.



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## December 6, 2020

<u>eve outdoor 'story and carols'</u>. Please call Kate Holtfreter at 231-590-3946 before December 13th to order a plant and say who it is in honor of, in celebration of, etc. You can send her a check for \$10.00 made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church (or BLC) and write poinsettia in the memo line.

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Tom's East Bay Store on December 11, and December 12, 2020. The first shift starts at 10:00 am and the last shift starts at 6:00 pm. Each shift is 1 hour long. If you are willing to ring, please call Carl Lehto at 231-223-7187 home or 231-944-9640 cell. We need 18 ringers. You can bring a friend with you to ring. Please dress warmly and wear a mask. The needs are greater than ever, so your help will be appreciated more than ever. Merry Christmas. Thank you.

<u>Stewardship Encouragement 2021 is Underway!</u> Many pledge cards have been received. Even though the due date (December 1st) is now past, it is not too late to send your pledge in. You can either mail the envelope to BLC or provide it with your offering during Parking Lot Communion at church (Sundays 11-11:45 a.m.) Many thanks and God bless!

<u>Covid hits our congregation</u>! Please keep praying for all who are being hit by this illness especially one of our own council members. Even though all in that household were being careful, someone who was ill came to their home without wearing a mask and all are now very sick. Through the wonders of ZOOM this person was able to participate in the most recent council meeting, and the rest of us saw how ill someone could be even without being hospitalized. Another council member had to be in work/home only quarantine for 2 weeks due to recent multiple exposures in that person's essential job. Know that any of the tough decisions that the council is making are with the well-being of all members in mind.

**We're still collecting Oleson's receipts**, and we're hoping you've been saving yours for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

Advent Nights & Blue Christmas this year will all be online. We are excited to announce that we will be teaming up with three other Lutheran pastors in the area to provide Advent Wednesday content for all four Advent Wednesdays in December (12/2, 9, 16 and 23) with a special "Blue Christmas" service for the 16th. We invite you to join us on either Facebook or YouTube on Wednesdays at 7:00PM for this special programming.

The DECEMBER issue of the STAR is ready! The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for three months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) The cost of postage for the STAR is now being taken from the general fund. If anyone wants to make an extra donation towards postage due to the monthly cost of keeping all members informed, a notation can be made on any check or envelope. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARs will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter

The outdoor "Shooting STAR Dispenser" at BLC is now full with several paper publications, including the December STAR and the current week's worship folder/bulletin. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

<u>Calling all Knitters!!</u>: There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some to make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

<u>Christ in Our Home Devotionals for October/November/December.</u> They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

<u>The daughter of one of our members, Kathi Ivany-Mort, is in need of a vehicle</u>. She is a single parent of three children, two of which have special needs. She has limited funds but would be open to a fair price and/or payment plan if desired. If you have a vehicle that would seat five people and possibly AWD or 4WD, please contact Kathi on her cell at 231-313-1647 or Kathi's husband, Jef Mort, at their home phone 231-929-4911.

From Kathi Ivany: "Praise the Lord! And a special thank you to Margo for your kind and generous gift for my daughter! Erica and her family can certainly use it at this time of the year....I have recently discovered that Erica is trying to save money for an internet connection, so that her children can receive an "inter-face connection" with their schools."

As an aside, an internet company in Rapid City is charging very high fees now to install internet in homes, and though Erica has tried to contest this, it looks like this is the reality these days. Continued prayers for all those trying to stay connected in these challenging times. - Pr. Paul

<u>The BLC book club</u> will take a Christmas break and not meet again until Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. More information on the book to be discussed will come later.

<u>Keep "Hope Spreading":</u> Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at <a href="mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org">paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</a> or Sharon at <a href="mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org">admin@bethlehemtc.org</a> if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. We are using the Augsburg Fortress study of two of Paul's letters: 1st and 2nd Corinthians. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.



## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

# December 2020 Programming



ADVENT WEEK 2: WED, DEC. 9TH - 7PM
VIRTUAL ADVENT NIGHT
FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

ADVENT WEEK 3: WED, DEC 16TH- 7PM
VIRTUAL BLUE CHRISTMAS
FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

ADVENT WEEK 4: WED, DEC. 23RD - 7PM
VIRTUAL ADVENT NIGHT
FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

THURS, DEC. 24TH - 4PM
VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

THURS, DEC. 24TH - 6PM

CHRISTMAS EVE "STORY & CAROLS"

BETHLEHEM'S EAST LAWN

THURS, DEC. 24TH - 8PM
VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

Leadership for Advent Nights will be shared by: Advent Lutheran Church of Lake Ann, Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Traverse City, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Suttons Bay, Feast of Victory Lutheran Church of Acme