

10:55 ALIVE WORSHIP SERVICE
November 27, 2022
ADVENT #1

****GOD CALLS US TOGETHER****

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

A path to our God,

Winding through the ordinary,

Weaving through the busyness,

Overcoming roadblocks and detours.

A way to go home,

Leaving the past in the past,

Moving from darkness and exile,

Coming into the light.

Advent is a path to our God,

A way to come home,

A discovery of God's voice:

Rejoice, rejoice. God is with us!

GATHERING SONG

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

(First Candle is lit)

P: Let us pray. Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wake us, O God! Wake us from the busyness that already threatens to obscure the simple splendor of your humble birth. Wake us to the truth about ourselves, that we give in to the pressures of culture to buy more than we need, to give mainly to those who give to us, to spend more time shopping than praying.

We confess that we need Advent to refocus us, to turn our eyes to those who encounter “no vacancy” signs and to teach us to listen to those whose pain knows no words. Wake us to a new Advent. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SONG

****GOD SPEAKS TO US****

THE FIRST READING: Habakkuk 2:1-5

¹I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

²Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;

it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

⁵Moreover, wealth is treacherous; the arrogant do not endure.

They open their throats wide as Sheol; like Death they never have enough.

They gather all nations for themselves and collect all peoples as their own.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:5-25

Pastor Emily

A reading from Luke.

Speak to us Lord for we are listening.

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸Once when he was serving as priest before

God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home. ²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵"This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

The Good News of God for all people.

We have heard your Good News.

SERMON

"Do NOT Be Afraid"

Pastor Emily

SERMON SONG

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord meet us in the silence...**And hear our prayers. Amen.**

****GOD FEEDS US IN A MEAL****

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Blessed are you, Breath of peace, Giver of all life, Source of love that knows no boundaries. Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began.

You have filled us with your hope for a world where those considered last are first; violence is overcome by love; and, all work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us.

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness.

At this time, we remember Jesus, who on the night before he died, took bread, gave God thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant; remember me."

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding, this wine the medium of our transformation, this table the foundation of our renewal, and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.

THE 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.

Come to the table of our Lord.

COMMUNION SONG

****GOD EMPOWERS AND SENDS US****

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord, and be dangerous!

Thanks be to God!