



**November 27, 2022**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
**9:00 am**  
**Pastor Emily Lemoine**



**Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church**  
3600 Highway 601 S  
Concord NC 28025  
704-782-2326

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### PRELUDE

### 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)*

“Light One Candle” verse 1

HYMN #240

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.

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.

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** (\*Indicates to Stand if able)

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.  
Blessed be God’s name forever.

**Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Brief silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,  
**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.**  
**Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*\*\*We will share the peace of Christ by whichever way you are comfortable.*

**\*GATHERING HYMN**      “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”      HYMN #557

- 1      Awake, my soul, and with the sun thy daily stage of duty run;  
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise to pay thy morning sacrifice.
- 2      All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and hast refreshed me while I slept.  
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.
- 3      Lord, I my vows to thee renew. Disperse my sins as morning dew;  
guard my first springs of thought and will; and with thyself my spirit fill.
- 4      Direct, control, suggest, this day, all I design or do or say,  
that all my pow'rs, with all their might, in thy sole glory may unite.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

### **\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

#### **KYRIE (Tune: Savior of the Nations, Come)**

Kyrie Eleison, Lord, have mercy. Christe Eleison, Christ have mercy.

**Savior of the nations, come. Show the glory of the Son!  
Ev'ry people stand in awe. Praise the perfect son of God.**

Kyrie Eleison, Lord, have mercy. Christe Eleison, Christ have mercy.

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**THE FIRST READING:** Habakkuk 2:1-5

Dan

<sup>1</sup>I 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.

<sup>2</sup>Then the Lord answered me and said:

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

<sup>3</sup>For 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.

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

<sup>5</sup>Moreover, 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.

**PSALM 27:1-9 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

**<sup>4</sup>One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

**<sup>6</sup>Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

**<sup>8</sup>“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

**THE SECOND READING:****2 Corinthians 12:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power[c] is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Prepare the Royal Highway; the King of kings is near!**

**Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!**

**Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

**Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:5-25**

Pastor Emily

The Gospel of Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>In 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. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. <sup>8</sup>Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. <sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But 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. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for 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. <sup>16</sup>He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With 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.” <sup>18</sup>Zechariah 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.” <sup>19</sup>The 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. <sup>20</sup>But 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.” <sup>21</sup>Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup>When 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. <sup>23</sup>When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home. <sup>24</sup>After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup>“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 Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*“Do NOT Be Afraid”*

Pastor Emily

**SERMON HYMN**

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

HYMN #244

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

4           Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
            arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
            With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
            the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **OFFERING (collecting food in baskets and offering in plates)**

### **ANTHEM**

"Lift Thine Eyes"

### **OFFERTORY (Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **\*WELCOME TO COMMUNION**

*\*Communion is taken around the altar rail. Please come forward via the center aisle when an usher directs you. Kneel (or stand) around the rail and wait to partake communion. Once taken, remain for a blessing, then return to your seat by the side aisles.*

*\*\*If you need communion brought to you in your seat, please alert an usher.*

## **COMMUNION SONG**

- 1           Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.  
            Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 2           Come now, O God of love, make us one body.  
            Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 3           Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.  
            Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

4           Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.  
            Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Text: Geon-yong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
Text © Geonyong Lee.

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

“We are Waiting for Jesus”

### **\*BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **\*BENEDICTION**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

“The King Shall Come”

HYMN #260

- 1           The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,  
            when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.
- 2           Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,  
            but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.
- 3           Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose  
            and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.
- 4           Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race  
            the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.
- 5           The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.  
            Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**