

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP no. 1

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 • 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please turn off all cell phones.

If you are visiting with us today, we extend to you a particular welcome and invite your questions and comments.

Our entire worship service is printed in this worship folder for your convenience.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.

In the order of service, the words that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Tonight we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is at work in this world.

From generation to generation, God has brought good news of love and compassion, justice and community.

Let us rest and abide in that good news. Amen.

A moment of silence.

POEM

A reading from a poem by Reverend Sarah Speed.

Room

I asked God what about my fingernail-biting habit or the way I leave all the cabinets open in the kitchen?

What about the way I can be dramatic, drumming up a fight, only to hand out apologies like souvenirs?

What about the way I second-guess myself, let shame drive, or stay quiet when I have something to say?

What about the way I chase accomplishments like a dog with a bone?

What about the doubt, or the fact that I'm terrible at prayer and cannot help but yawn during church?

What about What about *What about?*

My baggage might be too big for the van.

But then God called me by my first and middle name, which always means business, and said: Who told you that you were too much? Sugar, there is so much room for you here.

So that's when I grabbed a seat and we hit the road and I knew right then that the rumors were true.

There is room. There is room. There is room.

GATHERING HYMN





CALL TO CONFESSION

In God's house, everyone is welcome those who seem like they have it all together, and those who feel like their world is falling apart.

No matter who we are, there's room for us here.

With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer, speaking the truth of our lives.

Kneel or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray.

God of today and tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you. Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.

Help us remember, today and tomorrow,

there's room for every story. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, we who feel scattered are held together.

We who have lost our way are forgiven and found.

And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, "There's room for you here."

From generation to generation , this is the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Stand.

ACCLAMATION OF THE READINGS • "OPEN MY HEART"

All Creation Sings 1079

Chimes play melody one time through. **Congregation sings Part I three times.**

Anyone is welcome to sing Part II or Part III instead if they are comfortable with doing such.



READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 1:1-17

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

INVITATION TO PRAYER STATIONS

HYMN OF THE EVENING • "0 COME, 0 COME, EMMANUEL" *Evangelical Lutheran Worship 257*

0 O come, O come, Em - man and ran - som cap - tive u - el, -1 O come, O Wis - dom from all things on high, em - brac - ing 2 to your tribes on O come, O come, O Lord of might, as 3 your own from Sa - tan's O come, O Branch of se, free Jes ile here lone - ly Is ra - el, that mourns in ex and stay; and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come far the law an - cient times you Si nai's height in gave ple save, an - ny; from depths of hell your peo tyr Refrain un - til the Son of God ap - pear. guide our way. your will and teach us Re-joice! Re-joice! in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. and give them vic - t'ry the grave. o'er Is ra - el. shall come to you, O Em-man u - el -

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Together, let us confess our faith.

We believe in a God who promised to Abraham, who wrestled with Jacob, who walked with Ruth, who spoke with Moses, who grieved with Bathsheba, who danced with David, who dreamed with Joseph, and who hoped like Mary. We believe in a God who has been living, inviting, transforming, and challenging us from generation to generation. And we believe that same God is here with us now, saying, "Come on in; there's room for you here."

Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYERS • "WATCH, O LORD"

All Creation Sings 996

Congregation sings refrain. Leader sings verses **with congregational response.**



At the conclusion of singing, there is an opportunity for spoken prayers.

Creator of the stars of night, we give you thanks for this gift of life.

Increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve.

Abide with us as darkness deepens and be our hope and highest joy, until at last, with all your saints, we dwell in your unfailing Light.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN



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BLESSING

Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love, + and give you peace this night and always.

Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace. Rest in God. Rise to serve. Thanks be to God.

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