

ADVENT

2020



MATTERS of FAITH

The first article of the Augsburg Confession begins with a statement of belief about God. It says:

There is one divine essence/being which is named God and truly is God. But there are three persons in the same one essence, equally powerful, equally eternal: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three are one divine essence, eternal, undivided, unending, of immeasurable power, wisdom and goodness, the creator and preserver of all visible and invisible things.

It is a core belief held to and proclaimed *only* by Christians. It is distinctly unique and far more specific than societies general claim of “In God We Trust.” It says that Christians believe not only in ‘God’ but in the one God known to us as Father/Creator, Son/Redeemer and Spirit/Sustainer.

Christians *alone* go on to speak of two world/life changing events: Incarnation and Resurrection. *Incarnation* celebrates God entering the world in human flesh in Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary. *Resurrection* celebrates the raising from death to eternal life, one human being so far, Jesus of Nazareth. Christians believe that God is most fully and clearly known to the world through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of this one particular Jewish man, and that he was and is God the Redeemer.

Both *Incarnation* and *Resurrection* are stunning acts of grace and compassion by God, gifted to the world unmerited and unearned. Both are understood and embraced only through faith, only through trust in these acts of God on our behalf. Faith itself comes only through the proclamation by word and deed of these good-news promises meant to restore a broken world.

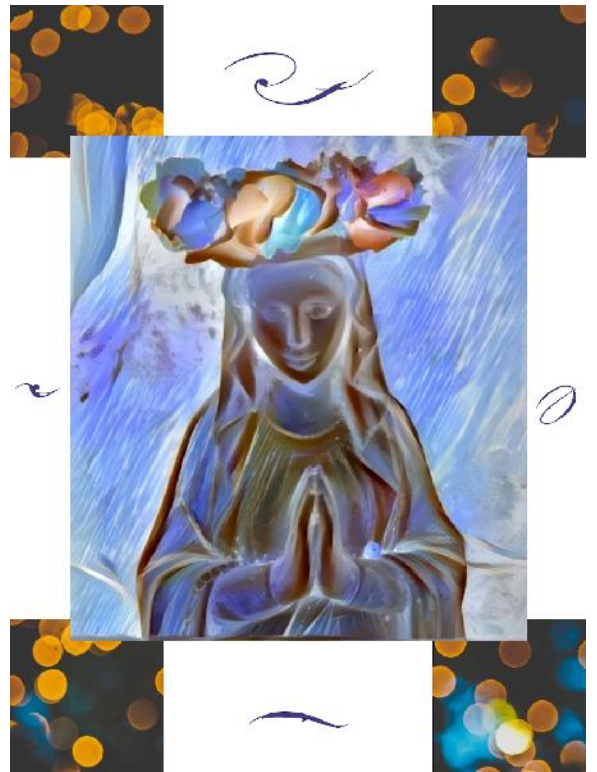
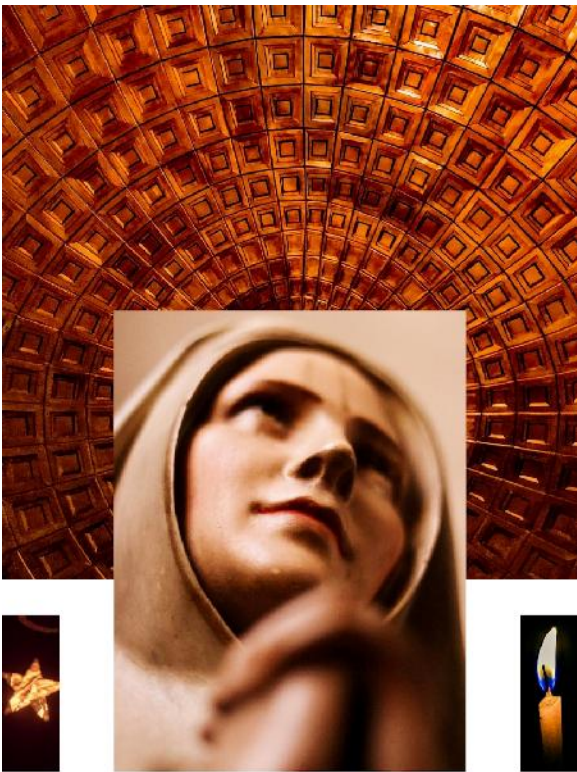
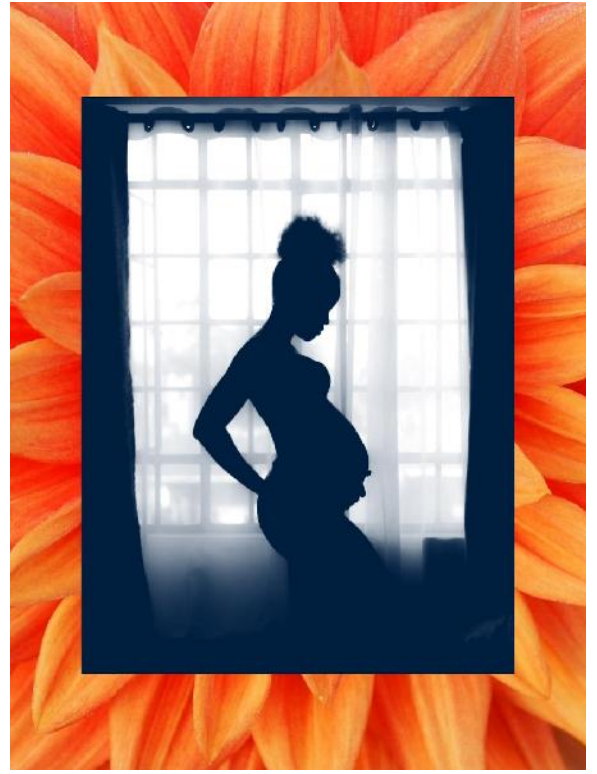
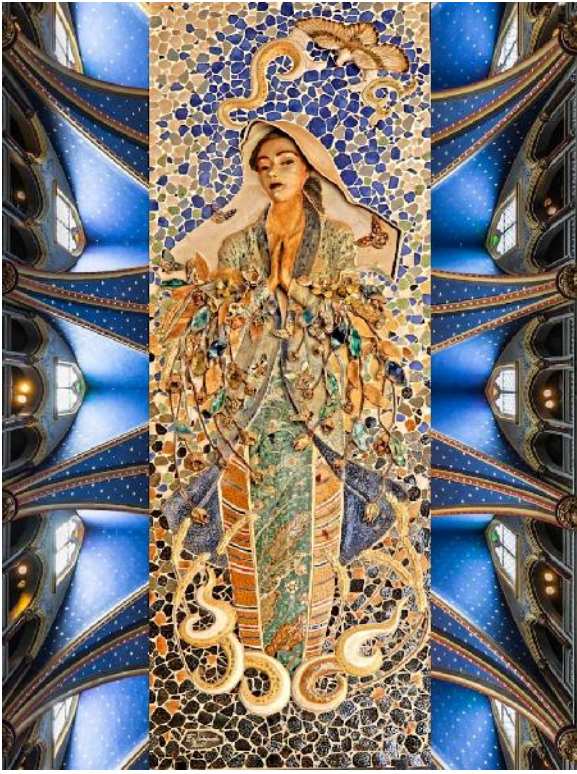
MATTERS of FAITH

Sadly, Christianity has allowed these two powerful life-giving acts of God on behalf of all creation and all humanity in Jesus Christ to become barely more than sentimental, market-driven occasions labeled Christmas and Easter. We've substituted 'the traditions of man' for the powerful promises made and kept by God in Jesus Christ. We've settled for a warm and pleasant holiday tingle in place of the shock of heaven's own lightning bolt of God's amazing grace. Christianity risks becoming pleasant and passive instead of prophetic, powerful proclaimers of such strikingly awesome, disruptive, life-changing gracious good news.

That doesn't mean that Christians have to become '*bah humbug-ers*' when it comes to the actions surrounding the celebration of Incarnation/Christmas or Resurrection/Easter. It could be more simply a time or occasion for us as people of faith to become '*did-you-also-know-ers*.' We could start by adding our witness, our joy and our gratitude for God's grace-gifts by sharing the theological roots of these two world-changing events. How it is we've come to see in both actions the presence of a gracious God who has broken into our world, who has come down with hope and healing in his wings for the sake of the whole world. A God who has done so in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, of Jesus the Christ. One God, whose awesome goodness is worth celebrating and proclaiming.

Might you try sharing such good news with friends and family, especially after a year like 2020? We could all use such hopeful, enduring good news.

—Pastor Kim Latterell



SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

online worship • 10:45 a.m.

Sunday 11/29

Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

• 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • Mark 13:24-37

Sunday 12/6

Isaiah 40:1-11 • Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

• 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mark 1:1-8

Sunday 12/13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 • Luke 1:46b-55

• 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 • John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday 12/20

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 • Luke 1:46b-55

• Romans 16:25-27 • Luke 1:26-38

In addition to the assigned scripture readings for each Sunday, we will also explore Mary's beautiful hymn, *Magnificat*, in image, song, prayer, and text through the Sundays of Advent.

Join us for the lighting of candles on the Advent wreath, Advent hymns, prayers and texts of the season, proclamation of the Word, and Holy Communion.

Worship folders and ways to view the worship services will be posted each week to the MVLC website: www.mtviewlutheran.org

Donations for Seafarers' Christmas Boxes

Tacoma Seafarers' Center is a Christian non-profit organization serving the seafarers who call in the Port of Tacoma. Their purpose is to meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the seafarers. **These needs are particularly acute this year as most seafarers are not able to depart their ships when they make port in a city.**

This year we will not gather to pack boxes. But the Tacoma Seafarer's Center still has means to get items to the seafarers onboard their ships. So your donations will go a long way to bringing a little of Christ's light to our neighbors.

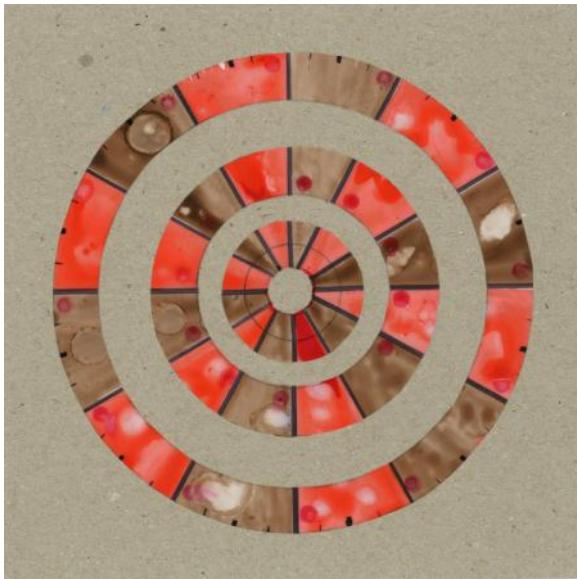
In light of Covid, we ask that you give monetary donations this year which Tacoma Seafarers will use to purchase items in bulk.

Make checks payable to the Tacoma Seafarer's Center.

You can mail donations or drop them off at the church office from 9am-1pm M-Th.

Please submit donations by Sunday, December 15th.





LIVING HOPE

PAST
PRESENT
FUTURE



ADVENT MIDWEEK

online worship

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Wednesday, December 16, 2020



worship folders
+ links to watch worship

available via MVLC E-news
and the MVLC website
the week prior to each service



ADVENT PILGRIMAGE in PALESTINE Sign-Up

During the Advent season we often talk a lot about the Holy Land of the past without talking much about the Holy Land of the present. What is going on in Bethlehem today? How are we called to accompany our Palestinian siblings in love, joy, hope, peace, and justice?

Join ELCA Young Adults and ELCA Peace Not Walls starting November 30 for an Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine.

Over the course of the four weeks of Advent, young adults from the ELCA and ELCJHL will lead us on this pilgrimage through story, education, and theological reflection.

Every Monday of Advent we will share a video reflection and every Wednesday of Advent we will share a written blog post, accompanied by discussion questions and actionable items you can use with small groups.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yylahebe> to register and participate.

Live differently! Give differently!

**Visit the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog
at <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>**

1. Choose your gift. 2. Get a card. 3. Make a difference.

Advent Quiet Morning 2020

wait /WEYT/ *weight*

9:00 a.m.

Saturdays 11/28,
12/5, and 12/12

Therefore the Lord himself
will give you a sign. Look, the
young woman is with child and
shall bear a son, and shall
name him Immanuel.

—ISAIAH 7:14

And the Word became flesh
and lived among us, and we
have seen his glory, the glory
as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

—JOHN 1:14

This year, ADVENT QUIET MORNING will take place on three consecutive Saturday mornings—11/28, 12/5, 12/12— at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Each week will have its own set of Bible passages and related readings. They will all be thematically connected around the notion of **/WEYT/** (wait, weight). From the time we started our first "state lockdown" in March due to COVID-19 until Christmas is approximately the same time as a pregnancy.

What does it mean to wait in expectation?

What will a time of holy gestation bring forth?

Each brief time (about 15 minutes or so) of prayer and devotion together will hopefully lead into a longer time of reflection and prayer in the comfort of your own home. So find your favorite place to pray and read, pour a glass or mug of your favorite beverage, and be prepared to respond to what you hear in reflection, prayer, art, or journaling.

ZOOM

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77970615904?pwd=eTNNMm9rVzNqYko0Q0RuOFIzejgyZz09>

Meeting ID: 779 7061 5904

VOICES

Jeni Falkman Grangaard • The Nilsen Family • Ann Weems
Walter Brueggemann • John O'Donohue • Emily M. D. Scott
Herbert Brokering • Father Alfred Delp • The Prophet Isaiah

TEXTS

“Blessing of a Pregnancy” • “The Texture of Blessing”
“The Coming of God” • “For a Mother to Be”
“Womb” • “Quickening” • “The Shaking Reality of Advent”
“Newborn Beginning ... After Caesar” • excerpts from *Unto Us Is Born*



FIVE INVITATIONS

I have five invitations and yes, challenges for all of us:

ONE

Strengthen your safe contacts with those you hold sacred in your lives—call, email, zoom, skype, facebook or sitting together at the dinner table. With one another identify and lift up points of joy and celebration. Share what is good, and right, and hopeful even today.

TWO

Starting this week, call at least one other member of Mountain View that you either don't know or don't know very well. You can use your hard copy church directory if you have one, or you can use your Shelby access to the membership list. If you don't have Shelby access, call or email the church office, and we will help you get set-up. What should you say? First, tell them you are calling because you care about them personally. Introduce yourself, share a little background about you, your family and your story at Mountain View. Ask then to do the same, and as they do, really listen to their story. It is important! Thank them for sharing and ask them if there is a prayer need that you can lift up for them this week.

FIVE INVITATIONS

Do this with a different member each week until January 10, which is the Baptism of our Lord. After each conversation, write a short note answering the question, “What has this conversation meant to me?” If you come across a phone number that has been disconnected or is no longer in service, let the church office know so we can see about correcting this—connection does matter!

THREE

During the season of Advent send a card, this can be a Christmas card or other card to at least one member or household you don’t know. Introduce yourself, share a bit of your story, and let them know that you are naming them in your prayers for the month of December. And then indeed, name them in your daily prayers.

FOUR

Send a card of prayer and thanks to the staff at a healthcare facility. Write that you are thankful for the care and sacrifice they are providing, and that you are praying for them, their work, the patients they are caring for and for their families. If you address the card to “Staff in ICU,” or “Staff in Pediatrics,” or “Staff in Oncology or Orthopedics,” along with the name and address of the health care facility, they will receive it, and they will hear your love.

FIVE

In this season of added distancing, use some of your distancing time to get closer to God’s Word. Remember that reading God’s Word is not about consuming volume but allowing yourself to be consumed with the story of God’s love. Take the read slowly.

—Pastor Mike Greenwalt

The above is excerpted from Pastor Mike’s sermon for Christ the King Sunday on Sunday, November 22, 2020. Listen to the full sermon at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJDyNLsEE_U&t

UW LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Greetings in the name of Christ!

My name is Chelsea Globe and I'm the newly called pastor for Lutheran Campus Ministry to the University of Washington community. After more than a year of intentional time off while navigating much transition and change, or what we are calling a "fallow year" (in reference to Exodus 23:11's advice for a fertile harvest), this ministry is looking forward to new growth. The fertile ground of our ministry is now well-rested and ready to produce a bountiful harvest once again!

How do we rebuild a campus ministry in the middle of a pandemic? The same way you would any other time – connections! We want to connect with YOU! If you are or are related to a UW student, (undergraduate or graduate), let us know! If you are a UW faculty or staff member, let us know! If you are a UW alumnus, let us know! Heck, even if you are just a fan of Husky sports, or care about the spiritual development of college students, let us know! As the new pastor trying to get this ministry up and running again, I want to hear from anyone and everyone who has any connection to both UW and Lutheranism.

While the opportunities to meet physically are limited this year, there are still so many ways that we can be supportive of students and staff at the University of Washington. Right now, I'm primarily seeking to connect with individuals at UW to introduce myself and let them know that the ELCA is here for them. I am also focusing on increasing our presence within our region's ELCA congregations so that everyone knows we are back up and running! And of course, you always have the opportunity to support this vital ministry with your prayers, thoughts, and donations.

I hope to keep in regular contact with you and your congregations. If you want to stay connected, [click here](#) to sign up for our email newsletters. You can also keep up with us on our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), or [Instagram](#). And if you have a UW student to refer to campus ministry, you can use this [Google Form](#) to do so or email me directly.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry as we show God's grace and unconditional love to the UW community!

Blessings,
Pastor Chelsea Globe
pastor@uwlutherans.org
206-590-0857
www.uwlutherans.org



HOLIDAY HOPE

We are saddened to have to cancel our beloved Santa Breakfast this year. You can still help bring some hope this holiday season to families experiencing hardships by sponsoring a family through our *Holiday Hope Program*. We hope to sponsor all 35 families in our local ECEAP/Headstart Program as well as some Walker High School students and their families. In general, we are asking that sponsors provide one gift and a new coat for each child in the family and a gift card OR one or two items for the household (examples: coats for parents, cleaning supplies, sheets, etc). An interest form is below. We left a box for "groups" incase a small group or ministry group wants to sponsor a family together. Questions? Please contact our Youth Programs Coordinator, Amanda Goetz at amandag@mtviewcc.org.

Sponsorship Interest Form:

<https://mvcc.wufoo.com/forms/s1h4xxm71xz8zqj/>

Images include:

-] Front cover: Advent candles, photograph, by Amelie & Niklas Ohlrogge, unsplash.com/photos/i8RKD8wIMHI. Public domain via Unsplash.
-] Page 4, upper left: Foreground: Detail of Indonesia mosaic of Mary at the Basilica of the Annunciation, Nazareth, Palestine. Photograph, 2016, by Dennis Jarvis, www.flickr.com/photos/archer10/33579488153 [CC BY-SA 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0)]. Background: Details of the ceiling of Notre-Dame Cathedral, Basilica, Ottawa, Canada. Photograph by Marc-Olivier Jodoin, unsplash.com/photos/pIZigyr8-ho [Public domain via Unsplash].
-] Page 4, upper right: Foreground: Pregnancy. Nairobi, Kenya. Detail of a photograph by Mustafa Omar, <https://unsplash.com/photos/tEz8JU1j-00> [Public domain via Unsplash]. Background: Orange dahlia. Detail of a photograph by Nick Windsor, unsplash.com/photos/b_GosOIUGI4 [Public domain via Unsplash].
-] Page 4, lower left: Foreground: Statue of Mary, Notre Dame des Oliviers, Murat, France. Detail of a photograph by DDP, <https://unsplash.com/photos/vouFRjpSe6A> [Public domain via Unsplash]. Background: Domed ceiling in Ambedkar Park, Lucknow, India. Upside-down detail of a photograph by Vishal Gautam, <https://unsplash.com/photos/domcZ84Edao> [Public domain via Unsplash]. Star corner: “Lantern Star.” Detail of photograph by Michael Kilcoyne, <https://unsplash.com/photos/G1y7tcQxG34> [Public domain via Unsplash]. Candle corner: “One More Light.” Detail of photograph by Abdullah Ahmad, unsplash.com/photos/IPmZFauMzlo [Public domain via Unsplash.]
-] Page 4, lower right: Corners: Abstract bokeh light at night. Details of photograph by Roven Images, unsplash.com/photos/pnbwFQVqzHc [Public domain via Unsplash]. Foreground: “Mary - Study in Blue,” digitally-manipulated and deep-dreamed photograph, 2020, by Troy Kehm-Goins and artificial intelligence. Original statue is at All Saints Catholic Parish, Puyallup, Washington. Font: “Aether” font to represent silence, created by Kenn Munk.
-] Page 7: Photograph of 2018 Advent Adventure #2: Seafarers Gifts.
-] Page 8: “The Histories,” “Covenant (with Abraham and Sarah),” and “New Jerusalem,” mixed media, 2020, by Troy Kehm-Goins.
-] Page 9: Advent image by ELCA Young Adults.
-] Page 10: Photograph by luizclas, www.pexels.com/photo/afterglow-art-backlit-bokeh-556665. Public domain via Pexels.
-] Page 12: Screenshot of the video of Christ the King worship at MVLC.
-] Page 15: “Holiday Hope” logo by the Mountain View Community Center.

Mountain View Lutheran Church

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