

HE COMES,
BEARING
gifts

THE GIFT OF HOPE



December 2, 2018

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are thankful that you've chosen to worship with us.

We love children worshipping with us. But we understand that kids can get restless. We have a few options for your convenience: Quiet Bags in the back of church, filled with activity pages and books; a Quiet Area in the library area of our Commons with a rocking chair, children's books and toys; Changing Tables in both washrooms down the hallway to the right as you exit the chapel.

Most of the service is projected on the front wall. You can also find the service and hymns in the hymnal. Bibles are available on request. If you want, you may follow along with the today's readings from your mobile device.

Please be sure to silence your mobile device so you don't disrupt the service or distract people's worship.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

When you look at the downward spiral of humanity, it is easy to grow cynical. The world seems to grow more dangerous each year. However, we are not pillars of nobility and virtue either. But today, Christ Jesus wants us to live in hope. Our hope is not a naïve wish that things will get better. Our hope is rooted in the fact that Christ came at that first Christmas to forgive every sin. Our hope is that Jesus will keep his promise to come again and destroy everything that is wrong with Creation. Christians hope that day comes soon. Confident that we are wrapped in Christ's righteousness, it will be a day of great deliverance.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord, keep us always expectant as we anticipate your return. Give us eyes to see the signs of your coming kingdom and hearts to trust your abiding Word. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist

Pastor Erich Westphal

Organist

Janice Budach

Ushers

Isaac Hill, Ryan Burmeister

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Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)* © 2017 The Wartburg Project

ADVENT GATHERING RITE: HOPE

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS AND LIGHTING RIGHT

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

C: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* | **CW 23**

**Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the *hope* candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, "Put your *hope* in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption" (Psalm 130:7).

C: **We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our *hope* (Psalm 130:5).**

C: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* | **CW 23**

**Oh, come, our Hope, who has declared
“Salvation’s won; do not despair.”
Help us believe that once for all
You bore God’s wrath, redeeming all.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: In the hope of God, we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

C: **God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are, therefore, Christ’s ambassadors, as though God we are making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God** (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).

C: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* | **CW 23**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel**

The service continues with the *Prayer of the Day* on page 17 of Christian Worship.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

God fulfilled this prophecy when he sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁴Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

¹⁵In those days and at that time,
I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David’s line.
He will establish justice and righteousness on earth.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will dwell securely.
This is what she will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 25 | **CW p. 74**

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Strengthened in faith through the Word, we live in the certain hope of being found holy and blameless on Judgment Day.

⁹Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? ¹⁰Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 12:18,21

Alleluia. See my servant, my chosen one, my love and my delight.
In his name all nations hope. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

We hope for Christ's return, because we know that for God's children, Jesus isn't bringing judgment, but redemption

²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, ²⁶people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near."

²⁹He told them a parable. "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. ³¹So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴"Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. ³⁵For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

NICENE CREED

The Common Service | **page 18,19**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come | **2**

SERMON

"Life in The 'In Between'" | **Luke 21:25-36**

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

Please record your visit on the Connection Card. This is also where we register for Holy Communion.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT

Christian Worship | page 123

LORD'S PRAYER (modern version)

The Common Service | page 20

THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

*If you want to establish communing fellowship with us, **please wait to receive the Lord's Supper** until you have had a chance to speak with the pastor.*

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

If you have established communing fellowship with us and desire to receive the Lord's Supper today, please use the following questions to help you prepare:

- Q: Do I recognize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment?
- Q: Do I want forgiveness for my failures (according to the Ten Commandments) to carry out the responsibilities of my calling(s)?
- Q: Do I believe that Jesus purchased forgiveness for me by his sinless life for me and death on the cross as the payment for all my sins?
- Q: Do I believe that Jesus gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of my sins?
- Q: Do I intend, with Christ's help, to fight temptation, do what I can to correct the wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works?

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes | 9

CLOSING HYMN

Hosanna to the Coming Lord | 21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORWARD IN CHRIST new editions are in the Information Center.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS is this Saturday from 9:30 – 11 am. You can take a postcard to give to friends and family.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT is next Sunday evening. It is a wonderful experience for women to get together and put our focus on the real spirit of Christmas. It's not too late to sign up!

MEN'S GROWTH GROUP we have a miscommunication on our monthly calendar (which was proofread by two people). We will be meeting on this Monday and on the 17th.

BROOKLYN BRIDGE PRESCHOOL would like to thank you for participating in our fundraising programs. Your support has generated nearly \$2,000 this past year! Over \$1,200 from SCRIP alone. Please continue to take advantage of these programs when purchasing Christmas gifts. **Thank you.**

BENEVOLENT FUND Jesus urges us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." To love as Christ has loved us, we will continue to have a special offering basket to help kick-start the benevolence fund for 2019 at every service through the end of the year. The goal is \$1000.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY To coincide with our 60th anniversary on February 10, 2019, we are working with *Lifetouch* to produce a new updatable pictorial directory. Picture days are scheduled for December 14 (2:00-9:00pm) and 15 (10:00am -4:00pm). Sign up for your slot on our website or Lisa Larson is available after the service to sign you up.

Calendar Week

Today – Advent 1

Sunday School	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:00 am
Worship	10:00 am
Fellowship	11:00 am

Monday

Men's Growth Group	7:00 pm
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Tuesday

Bible Class	3:15 pm
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Wednesday Advent Service

w/ preschool singing	7:00 pm
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Saturday

Christmas for Kids	9:30 – 11 am
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Sunday – LWMS Sunday

Sunday School	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:00 am
Worship	10:00 am
Fellowship	11:00 am

Advent by Candlelight	6:30 pm
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Serving in The Lord

Ushers

Today:	Isaac Hill Ryan Burmeister
Next Sunday:	Ron Stelter Russ Wyman

Organist

Today:	Janice Budach
Next Sunday:	Sasha Schallert

Blessings from The Lord

Attendance

Bible Study – 18
Sunday School – 4
Sunday Service – 57
Tuesday Bible Class – 9

Tithes & Offerings \$ 1,853.00



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