

# **MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

***The Lord's Day – First Sunday of Advent***

**December 3, 2023**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome & Announcements: Travis Skillingstad**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Prelude: Mary Strickland, piano**

***Carol Medley***

*Arranged by Mary Strickland*

**Call to Worship: Isaiah 2:2-5**

*It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, <sup>3</sup>and many 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 the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and 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 anymore. <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

**The Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise 196**

***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,  
Day-spring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
Of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness,  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.

Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit,  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **Confession of Sin: Pastor Mike Palombo**

#### **Need of Confession: Isaiah 1:16-17**

*Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.*

#### **Personal Confession of Sin**

#### **Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)**

**O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

#### **Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> *"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*

### **Affirmation of Faith: The Apostle's Creed (Unison)**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Song of Praise**

#### ***How Deep the Father's Love for Us***

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That he should give his only Son  
To make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;

The Father turns his face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon his shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward?  
I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart:  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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#### **The Lord's Prayer (Unison) / Pastoral 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

#### **Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory: Jan Driessnack & Barb Rountree, sopranos and Lynne Fowlkes, flute**  
*Carols of Advent*

#### **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### ***Light in Darkness: John 1:1-5, 14*** **Pastor Jeff Birch**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### **Hymn 310**

***Rejoice, the Lord Is King***  
Rejoice, the Lord is King:  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
And triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains,  
He took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus giv'n.  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand  
Till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command,  
And fall beneath his feet.  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,  
And take his servants up  
To their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**