

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Metropolitan Chicago Synod

GATHERING

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
our Prince of Peace,
our Mighty God,
our Wonderful Counselor,
who was and is, and is to come.

Amen.

LIGHTING AN ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

We invite you to light a candle in your home.

In the lighting of this candle, we remember.

We remember

You, who came to us

Who comes to us, in every day

Every moment

Mighty, yet vulnerable

Maker of all, yet marginalized

Infinite in power, yet crushed by human hands of empire.

Carrying us, yet carried by one of us.
Creating and shaping all things, yet recreating, reshaping,
remaking through the body of a woman, through the body of a baby,
through the bodies of all beings.

YOU come to us.
And know us.

Bringing hope into those places where we, too are vulnerable.
Those places where we, too are marginalized.
Those places where we, too are crushed.

We remember you.
Bringing hope to the nations. To the earth. To the cosmos.

And in this remembering, we are drawn to you, hovering around your
grace and mercy. Forever warmed by your all-consuming love.
Amen.



GATHERING SONG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW #257

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

O come, o Rod of Jesse's stem
From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust your mighty power to save
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O Come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind.
All bitter, sad divisions cease
And bid for us a king of peace!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

KYRIE

You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

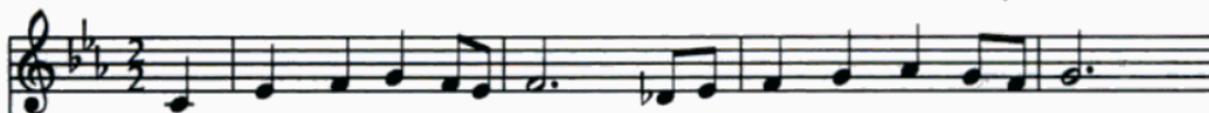
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil –
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.
Your holy cities have become a wilderness,
Zion has become a wilderness,
Jerusalem a desolation.
Our holy and beautiful house,
where our ancestors praised you,
has been burned by fire,
and all our pleasant places have become ruins.
After all this, will you restrain yourself, O LORD?
Will you keep silent, and punish us so severely?



PSALM

Psalm 80



1. O hear our cry, O Lord; Now hear us as we pray.
2. En - throned a - bove all worlds, You shine with ho - ly light.
3. O Lord, the God of Hosts, Turn not Your face a - way.
4. O Lord, our God, re - turn; Bring peace in - to each home.



You guide us as a shep-herd leads, So keep us in Your way.
Lord, pour Your power up - on us all And save us with Your might.
Our tears have been both food and drink, Foes mock us night and day.
So let Your face shine on us all, Re - store us as Your own.



O come, Lord, come, Re - store and save us now.

Words: Fred R. Anderson (b. 1941), 1986, © 1986 Fred R. Anderson
Music (VINEYARD HAVEN 6.6.8.6 with refrain): Richard Dirksen, 1974, © 1974, 1987 Harold Flammer, a division of Shawnee Press; arr. © 2011
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SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

An-cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing you; We have
come with o-pen hearts, O let the an-cient words im-part.

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GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

The gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Bishop Yehiel Curry

HYMN OF THE DAY

Soon and Very Soon

ELW #439



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

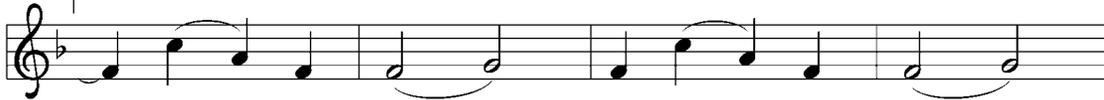


soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
 Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, we boldly confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Receive our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Bless and guide the work of Yehiel our bishop, and all synod pastoral and administrative staff; the synod council; and all the seminarians, deacons, lay leaders, and pastors of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world – both city and suburb, campus ministry and congregation, online and in-person – as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Protect all forest preserves and city parks, Lake Michigan and the Chicago River. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Empower us to act with boldness, to draw the circle ever wider. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Sustain the service ministries of our synod and congregations that feed, clothe, and support our neighbors in need. Relieve the burdens of all who seek aid, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses, especially those we name now, either silently or aloud. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

We're grateful for the Word,
The wisdom of the Word
The glory and the fullness of the lord

The greatness of his pow'r
Enlightens ev'ry hour:
The glory and the fullness of the Lord
God raised him from the dead
And put him at the head
Of everything we do
Both now and evermore

His name is high above
All names we've come to love
The glory and the fullness of the Lord.

From Ephesians 1; J.Y. © 2000 John C. Ylvisaker
Music: 'Santa Isabel', trad. Cuban, arr. J.Y. © 2000 John C. Ylvisaker

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Drawn together in the Spirit's tether, let us give thanks to God whose creative power, deep love, and abundant grace are made known to us in many and different ways.

Holy One, we experience you working and moving among us by means which we would never expect. For the many ways our lives are enriched by you and through you, we praise you. As you continue to defy our expectations through your love and grace, grant us hearts prepared to receive such goodness. All creation sings, **thanks be to God!**

Lord of the Harvest, as our celebrations of thankfulness in our families and communities continue to ring in our ears, may we carry such a posture of thanksgiving with us into this coming year. May the meals shared in this season be sustenance for the journey imbuing us with a spirit of justice and hope. All creation sings, **thanks be to God!**

God of All Time, even in a season fully laden with deep change and palpable grief, you are faithful. You make your presence known to us at the outset of this new year of the life of the church. For the experience of the year that's passed and for the potential held in the year to come, we give you thanks. All creation sings, **thanks be to God!**

Incarnate One, the fullness of the Advent journey stands before us. Guide us in our time of watching and waiting, especially as our communities experience familiar rhythms in unfamiliar ways. Inspire us to keep awake, grant us meaningful rest when we must sleep, and scatter the gloom on our path. All creation sings, **thanks be to God!**

Our Fervent Guide, you lead us into the unknown with a steady hand and confident heart. You form us for the journey as a potter molds their clay. For the comfort and peace we find in you in the midst of all manner of difficult situations, we praise you. All creation sings, **thanks be to God!**

Our thankfulness for your love and grace go beyond these words, O God, with words and prayers of thanksgiving resounding in our communities even still. All praise be to you, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, this day and evermore. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Teach us to boldly pray in the words our Savior gave us:

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 trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

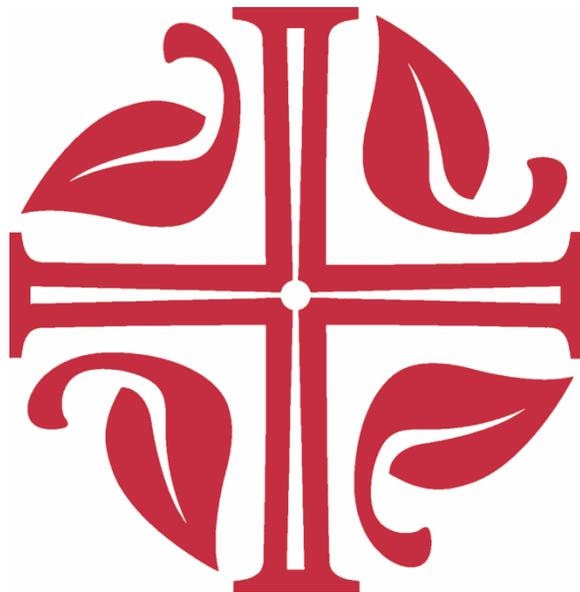
SENDING

BLESSING

May Christ the beacon of righteousness guide your way
and scatter all fear and worry from before your path,
and the blessing of God –

Creator, + Redeemer, and Giver of Life,
be with you, now and always.

Amen.



SENDING HYMN *Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn* ELW #242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: REJOICÉ, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

As you are sent from worship today, let us share a sign of God's peace with all whom we encounter.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister: *Dcn. Joanne Otte; Irving Park, Chicago*

Preaching Minister: *Bishop Yehiel Curry; Metropolitan Chicago Synod*

Advent Wreath Lighting: *Nikkeya Berryhill; First Call Candidate*

Opening Hymn: *Pr. Vickie Johnson; St. Thomas, Chicago*

Kyrie, Gospel Acclamation, Thanksgiving for the Word: *Matt Haider; Our Saviors, Arlington Heights*

First Reading: *Natalie Salas-Damer; Immanuel, Chicago*

Psalms: *Beau Surratt, Ayriole Frost; Holy Trinity, Chicago*

Second Reading: *Logan Walford; St. Mark, Chicago*

Gospel Reading: *Pr. Reginald Mortha*

Hymn of the day: *Musicians from Ebenezer, Chicago*

Apostles Creed: *Salas-Damer Family; Immanuel, Chicago*

Pr. Kristian Johnson, Pr. Anna-Kari Johnson and family; Pilgrim, Chicago

Prayers of the People: *Carol Johnson, Rodger Jones; Bethel, Chicago*

Litany of Thanksgiving: *Pr. Anders Nelson; St. Paul, Wheaton*

The Lord's Prayer: *Robert Radtke and Bonnie Osborne; MCS Deaf Ministry*

Closing Hymn: *Musicians from St. Luke Logan Square, Chicago*

Liturgy Team: *Viola Collins, Pr. Josh Evans, Pr. Christina Garrett Klein, Matt Haider, Pr. Kyle Severson*

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