**Worship Plan for Advent, December 2, 2018 – EARLY SERVICE ONLY**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope (Light candle)

We put our hope in the one to come, the promised one who comes from God to bring good news of salvation. We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the LORD. We hope he will not let us live in dark valleys, but on the high mountain of God.

We light this candle in Hope.

**On this day, we remember to hopefully look for the coming of Christ.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 723, Vs 1)*

**\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,

the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,

the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

**Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,

**we lift up our souls.**

**You know us through and through;**

**we confess our sins to you.**

**Remember not our sins;**

**remember us with your steadfast love.**

**Show us your ways;**

**teach us your paths;**

**and lead us in justice and truth,**

**for the sake of your goodness**

**in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy

and draw water from the well of salvation.

Remember the gift of baptism;

your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus;

you belong to Christ;

you are anointed to serve.

Stand up and raise your heads!

The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*(The lesson is read by the lay assistant)*

**The First lesson** Psalm 40:1-3

*A reading from the book of Psalms.*

1I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

2He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

3He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(The lesson is read by the lay assistant)*

**The Second lesson** Jeremiah 33:14-16

*A reading from Jeremiah.*

14The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Savior of the Nations, Come (ELW 263) Vs. 1, 3, 6*

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending; the lay assistant reads the petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we await the coming for Christ, we pray in hope

for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast of our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic disease, and be present to all who are sick, *especially….* Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light, and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

earHear

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us,

we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken,

in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One,   
the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,   
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;   
“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word   
dwelling among us full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in Jesus’ death and resurrection.  
And we look with hope for your coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

And teach us to pray…

**LORD’S 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 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

Share in the feast of salvation.

**Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One, we give you thanks

that in this bread and cup we have feasted again

on your endless love.

Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,

that we may be messengers to prepare you way,

harvesters of justice and righteousness,

and bearers of your eternal Word,

Our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Blessing**

May God direct your ways in peace,

make you abound in love for one another and for all,

and strengthen your hearts

until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *People Look East (ELW 248, Vs 1, 2, 4)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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