**Worship Plan for Advent, December 9, 2018 11:00 am service**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ. (light Candle.) Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.

God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it too. We dream of a peaceful world full of wolves and leopards and lions eating and sleeping and dancing with lambs, kids, and calves. We dream of a peaceful world where nations come together, where war is a memory, and we eat at one table.

We light this candle in Peace.  
**On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings peace surpassing all understanding.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 723, Vs 1+2)*

**\*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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

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

**The First lesson** Malachi 3:1-4

*A reading from Malachi.*

3See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

2But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap;

3he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**The psalm** Luke 1:68-79

*The Psalm today is a reading from St. Luke. The congregation will read the bold print.*

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

**for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.**

He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

**as he spoke through the mouth**

**of his holy prophets from of old,**

that we would be saved from our enemies

**and from the hand of all who hate us.**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

**and has remembered his holy covenant,**

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

**that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,**

**might serve him without fear,**

in holiness and righteousness

**before him all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,**

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

By the tender mercy of our God,

**the dawn from on high will break upon us,**

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia, Lord to whom Shall We Go (ELW p. 142)*

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**\*THE GOSPEL** Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

3In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,

2during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

3He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

4as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

6and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (ELW 436, vs. 1, 3)*

**SERMON**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(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.*

Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God.

Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Purify the hearts of all people, life-giving God. Remove the hate that lives within us and among us. Mold us into peacemakers. Raise up leaders rooted in your love and fed by your world.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Comfort all who hurt, life-giving God. Wrap them in your tender care. Remember the forgotten and send us out to share your love with them. Be with the wandering, the worried, and the woeful, *especially….*

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless this congregation, life-giving God. Give strength and joy to worship leaders, musicians, and our altar guild as they prepare the way for the celebration of the Christ child’s coming among us.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember the generations who have shown us your faithfulness, life-giving God. Shine your light on those who mourn and prepare us for that day when we will see you face-to-face.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

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.**

**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** *Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264, Vs 1, 3, 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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