**Worship Plan for Advent, December 16, 2018**

**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, and then we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God’s dream of a peaceful world. (Light 2 candles.) today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

In Advent we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the Wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!” We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us.

We light this candle in Joy (Light candle).

**On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 723, Vs 1, 2, 3)*

**\*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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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) Zephaniah 3:14-20*

*A reading from Zephaniah.*

14Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

15The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

16On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

17The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing

18as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

19I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

20At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says 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 psalm** Isaiah 12:2-6

*We will read from the book of Isaiah a responsive psalm. Please respond with the bond print.*

2Surely God is my salvation;

**I will trust, and will not be afraid**,

for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

**he has become my salvation**.

3With joy you will draw water

 **from the wells of salvation.**

4And you will say in that day:

**Give thanks to the Lord,**

call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations;

**proclaim that his name is exalted.**

5Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;

**let this be known in all the earth**.

6Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

**for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

*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 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

9Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

11In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

12Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

13He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

14Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

16John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *O Day of Peace (ELW 711)*

**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.*

For choirs, hymn writers, musicians, and even off-key singing, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the hurting places in creation; for seas and lands ravaged by natural disasters; for communities and creatures displaced by floods or fires. Grant peace through your presence and joy in your healing. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; for war to cease and hunger to end. Give us this joy now, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and for their families; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn (*especially…).* Fill them with your peace. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

For foster families opening their homes; for grandparents raising grandchildren; for single parents struggling to make ends meet; for expectant parents who now grieve. Give strength and comfort, Holy One.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for preachers and teachers who have guided us on the way. Bring us with them to rejoice eternally in you.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

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** *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (ELW 239, 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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