



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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1st Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020
Worship 11:00 A.M.

Presiding Minister
Musician

Rev. Diana Edis
Larissa Goruk

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page: [St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranPrinceRupert). You do not have to have a Facebook account to access that worship. You may also access this worship service on our You Tube channel as soon as it is uploaded at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY5N1JmPn41_R5_Xahok_w?view_as=subscriber

Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Weekly Prayer Petitions

Local: First United Church

Synod Parishes: Peace Lutheran in Abbotsford - Rev. Clifford Reinhardt - Interim
Emmaus Lutheran in Burnaby - Rev. Timo Saarinen

Anglican/Lutheran Joint Prayers: The people of the Anglican Church of Canada/
The people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Discipleship Opportunities

1. The Pastor will be Public by Zoom every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30AM. You may call in from your home or cell phone to 1-778-907-2071 without the need for a computer or you can join by computer, tablet, or smart phone by either clicking the link below or by typing it into your browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222984486?pwd=OHFicWZySkR1dHNpeklqMzU4RIJWUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 2298 4486

Password: 263906

2. We have initiated a task force to plan and implement a safe return to in-person worship. Our hope to return to the building for the Advent season has been dashed with the recent known cases in Prince Rupert; for the foreseeable future we remain online only.

3. This is the fifth Sunday of the month. It has been our tradition to have communion and a healing service on each fifth Sunday. Of course, a healing service will look much different with remote worship than it did when we were together in the house of the Lord. That being said, we would love to honor your prayers (as discreetly as we are able.) We would ask that you add the number of candles to your home altar as you have special prayers to be prayed. At the appropriate time you will be directed to light those candles, remembering those special souls or issues needing special prayer. You may also contact Pastor Diana with any specific prayer concerns you have. These will be kept confidential but may be lifted up silently during this time.

4. A letter has been sent to all regular attendants of St. Paul's with information about our new conference table and questioning what might be done with the pool/ping pong table in our upstairs conference area. Please take the time to read through the letter and respond with your thoughts on how we should move forward with this issue. You may contact by phone, email, Facebook message, or regular mail with your response.

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** Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.*

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

We confess that we are held captive by sin.

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.

**We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been
Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light
of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:

By God's endless grace your sins are forgiven and you are free—free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩
comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
 2 War - riors fight - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with his word,
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise him, our al - might - y king!"
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Praise him, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
 Kings of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702, adapt.; arr. J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

Pg. 213

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:

Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
Christ, have mer - cy:

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:

Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light One Candle

No. 240, vs 1

- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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L: Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Our first reading is from the book of Isaiah, beginning at the 1st chapter

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 forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Our second reading is from 1 Corinthians beginning at the 9th chapter 9:3-9

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.

L: The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Pg. 216

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -
 lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Mark, beginning at the 13th chapter 13:24-37
Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] "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."

L: The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

Hymn of the Day

My Lord, What a Morning

No. 438

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

Service of Healing

L: Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing – with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Prayers of Intercession: (petition end: In your great mercy,)
 (petition response: **hear us, O God.**)

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

L: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake,
 send your Holy Spirit upon your servants;
 drive away all sickness of body and spirit;
 make whole that which is broken;
 deliver them from the power of evil;
 and preserve them in true faith,
 to share in the power of Christ's resurrection
 and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore.

Amen.

L: I invite you to light your prayer candles. You may light one single candle encompassing your entire list of needs or you may light one candle for each person or issue that currently needs lifting to God. We will take a moment of silence while we lift these prayers.

Let us pray.

L: Living God, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing.
 When they are afraid, give them courage;
 when afflicted, give them patience;
 when dejected, give them hope;
 and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

L: Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**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 power of 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

Offering

Offerings may be mailed to the church or placed in our mailbox. You can send e-transfers to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca. You may also give electronically through CanadaHelps. We can be found there at St.Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen.

All people are invited to join in God's meal; however you may choose whether or not to participate. If you hear the call of the Holy Spirit inviting you, please respond. If you would like to learn more about communion you may call the church and speak with the pastor about its significance. You may prepare bread and wine or juice in advance of communion. You may wish to set up a small home altar for this purpose, using: a cross, a candle, an image of Christ (called an icon), and the bread and beverage if you feel so called. The pastor will have a half loaf, symbolizing that the other half of that loaf is present with you in your various abiding places. When the bread and beverage are offered by the pastor and you eat and drink you may respond, "Amen." Members of the same household are encouraged to serve one another.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...
 ...be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit across time and space, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Using whatever version of that prayer comforts you, we pray...

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

L: If the Holy Spirit calls you to this feast of bread and wine or juice, I invite you to receive that which has been prepared, each in our own places, but gathered together around the table of God. Although we are separated at this time by physical distance, we are united, made whole in the body of our Lord. There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

L: This is the body of Christ, given for you.

C: Amen

L: This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: Amen

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour strengthen you to eternal life.

C: Amen

L: Let us pray,

Merciful God, constant source of all healing,

we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be

no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

No. 244

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

L: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.