



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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2nd Sunday of Advent

December 05, 2021

Worship 11:00 AM

Minister: Rev. Diana Edis

Musician: Larissa Goruk

Videographer: Herman Seidemann

Reader: Carol Hadland

Worship is live streamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/princerupertlutheran/>. You do not need a Facebook account to access worship.

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Weekly Prayer Petitions

Local: First United Church, Pastor Derry Bott

Synod: Grace Lutheran in Burnaby - Rev. Nathan Fong, Mount Zion Lutheran in Smithers

Anglican/Lutheran Joint Prayers: ACC: The Primate: Archbishop Linda Nicholls and staff of the ACC

ELCIC: Bishop Susan Johnson and the National staff of the ELCIC

Discipleship Opportunities

1. The Pastor is Public at Javadotcup Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11:30AM. We will be in-person and on Zoom for those who aren't able to join in person. You can Zoom by clicking the link below or by typing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222984486?pwd=OHFicWZySkR1dHNpek1qMzU4RIJWUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 2298 4486

Password: 263906

2. Evening Advent worship is offered every Wednesday at 7:00 PM online. We are traveling around the province virtually, attending different sanctuaries and homes for our worship. We will be led by a different pastor each week. Pastor Diana Edis will be leading this week. Worship is at 7:00 PM by Facebook Live and Zoom. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86760996355>. The meeting ID is 86760996355, there is no need for a password. Or you may join online at <http://www.oursaviourslutheran.ca/>.

3. A Congregational Meeting will be held by Zoom December 19th after worship. The meeting is to approve the 2022 budget which will be distributed by mail and email. Members, non-members, and guests may attend.

Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88909692977?pwd=aEw2d0YzSlRaT0dnNWJEUzl6K2xSdz09>

Meeting ID: 889 0969 2977

Passcode: 170343

Announcements

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.

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life,

and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Gathering Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

No. 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

L: Let us pray together our 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. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent wreath

Let us pray

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 second 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.

We sing this hymn to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

2. Candles glowing, promise showing holy peace so still and bright.
New tomorrow, free from sorrow – living in Christ's holy light.
Shunning violence, loving neighbor, joy of silence, trust our savior –
Living in Christ's holy light! Living in Christ's holy light!

(Tune: W Żłobie Leży, a Polish folk melody – the same as "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021, *with permission*)

Our first reading is from Malachi beginning at the 3rd chapter

3:1-4

See, 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. But 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; he 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We read Psalm: Luke 1:68-79 responsively: (*leader reads the light print, congregation reads the bold*)

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,

to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Our second reading is from Philippians beginning at the 1st chapter

1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

WOV 48

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

The holy gospel according to Luke, beginning at the 3rd chapter

3:1-6

Glory to you, O Lord.

In 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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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. Every 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; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the

high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.

The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the

loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now

plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
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In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we 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 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

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen

Siblings, sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

Prayers of Intercession: (petition response: L: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Offerings may be mailed to the church or placed in our locked mailbox.

In Canada you may send e-transfers to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca.

You may also give electronically through CanadaHelps at St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert or by using the "Donate" button on our church website.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen

L: Gathered into one across time and space by the Holy Spirit, 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.

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 and social distancing, we are united, made whole in the body of our Lord. Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion

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

C: Amen

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

C: Amen

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

C: Amen

Let us pray,

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Thou My People

No. 256

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.