



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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3rd Sunday of Advent and Blessing of Sanctuary Renovation

December 11, 2022

Worship 11:00 AM

Minister: Rev. Diana Edis

Musician: Sheila Seidemann

Videographer: George Edis

Reader: Aurora Martin

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran. A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Weekly Prayer Petitions

Local Parishes: Native Revival Pentecostal – Pastor Charlie Carlick

Synod Parishes: Chetwynd Shared Ministry, Chetwynd, Christ Lutheran, Chilliwack

ACC: General Secretary, and staff

ELCIC: Assistant to the National Bishop for Communications/Resource Generation, Director and staff

Discipleship Opportunities

1. Our Dedication Sunday, the blessing of our sanctuary renovation and new altar painting to God's glory, is today! We welcome members young and old as well as the community, tradespeople, and artists who worked so tirelessly to realize our vision for the future. Join us downstairs for a potluck meal following worship.
2. The Pastor will be public this coming Wednesday at Javadotcup from 9:30-11:30 AM.
3. Our congregation has adopted two families for Christmas. Please have all those gifts to the church no later than December 13th for distribution.
4. Our Winter Bake Sale is scheduled for December 17 from 1-4:00 PM. If you are able to bake for the sale/work the day of the sale please contact Larissa Goruk or Lori Wilson. Free cookie tins available for packing goodies.
5. Our Christmas worship schedule is: Christmas Eve 7:00 PM
Christmas Day 11:00 AM, a low-key, come-as-you-are gathering
6. Our annual Congregational Budget meeting is scheduled for January 8 following worship. Our AGM is scheduled for January 29. Please plan to be in attendance for these two very important meetings. Those of you who have annual reports to present, please have those to the church office by January 23rd.

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

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Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

worship folder

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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Greeting
 Kyrie
 Song of Praise

worship folder
 worship folder
 worship folder

L: Let us pray together our Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Lighting of the Advent wreath

We sing verses 1-3 of Light One Candle following the lighting of the Advent Candle



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.

Our first reading is from Isaiah, beginning at the 35th chapter

35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We read Psalm 146:5-10 responsively: (*leader reads the light print, congregation reads the bold*)

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;
 who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD cares for the stranger;
 the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Our second reading is from James beginning at the 5th Chapter

5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

worship folder

The holy gospel according to Matthew, beginning at the 11th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

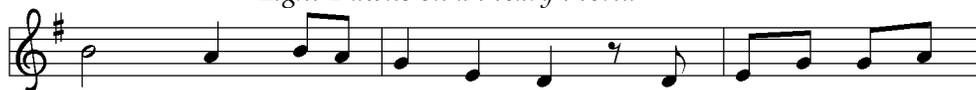
Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

Hymn of the Day

Light Dawns on a Weary World

No. 726 ELW



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



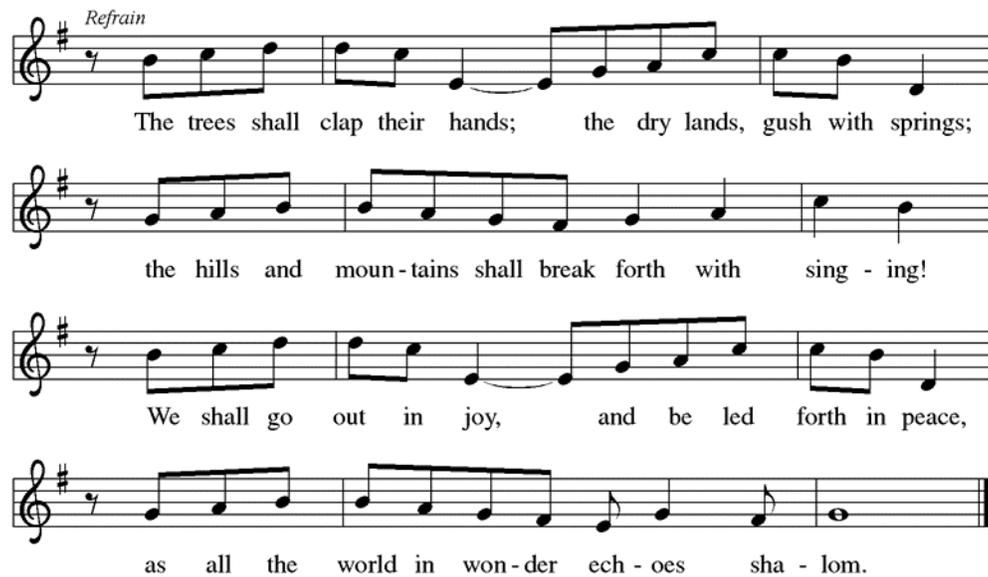
see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain on following page

Refrain



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
 the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
 as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Dedication

Prayers of Intercession: (petition response: L: God, in your mercy.
C: Hear our prayer.)

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

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

Offering Prayer
Great Thanksgiving
Holy, holy, holy
Lord's Prayer

Worship Folder
Worship Folder

**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.**

Lamb of God
Communion (individual responses)

Hymns during Communion

Prayer after Communion
Blessing
Sending Song

Worship Folder

He Came Down
Wait for the Lord
All Earth is Hopeful

ELW 253
ELW 262
ELW 461
Worship Folder

People Look East

248 ELW

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new
of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming
trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
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Dismissal
Go in peace. Christ is near!

Thanks be to God.