

November 27, 2022

*Those who are able may stand.

WELCOME

Thanks for joining us in worship today. Please sign the red Friendship Pad. If you are a visitor, please share with us your contact information, including your email address, so we can add you to our email distribution list.

*** PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

(this is a prayer we will sing to prepare our hearts for worship)

Give Thanks

Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because He's given

Jesus Christ, His Son. *(repeat)*

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"

Let the poor say, "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us; *(repeat)*

Give thanks. Give thanks. Give thanks.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (responsive)** Thompson Family

One: The days are growing darker

All: But the light of Christ is only growing brighter,

One: Let it glow through us as we put our differences aside and learn to listen to each, other respect each other, seek the truth, and follow the one who has called us into faith.

*** HYMN 97 ST. 1**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWTH

PRAYER (unison)

Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

*** HYMN 83**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison)

As the nights grow longer and the cold seeps into our very bones we turn to you loving God for warmth. During these long cold nights, we wait in anticipation for the events that are now quickly unfolding. When the shepherds will watch their

flocks by night all seated on the ground and the angels came and glory shone around. But the nights are growing longer and the world seems to be growing colder. We see distress among the nations, and brokenness in our country, and even here in our own church. And yet we hear the scriptures tell us “when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Our redemption draws near: a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger yet destined to be the savior of this world. And Mary treasured all these words and held them in her heart. May we too in the midst all that is taking place in our world and our lives be like Mary and treasure this time and the events that are enfolding around us in our hearts that we may find the joy that Jesus brings to all hearts that are open. Amen

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

One: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

All: O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

One: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

One: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

All: We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

One: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

All: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASS THE PEACE

(please turn to your neighbor and greet them with the peace of Christ)

ANTHEM

Thank You Lord

Moen/Baloche

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (responsive)

God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS (pages 550 & 808)

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

Response after readings: This is the word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A Sense of Urgency

Rev. Eric Markman

*(If you have prayer concerns or joys today,
please use our Prayer Request Card and give it to an Usher during this hymn.)*

* HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsive)

Colossians 1:15-17, Phil. 2:5-11

One: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.

All: All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

One: He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

All: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

One: Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Offertory Anthem

- * **SONG OF DEDICATION** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* OLD HUNDREDTH
HYMN #606 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

*Let us pray for the church, our neighbors in need and the whole world,
saying: **Hear our prayer.***

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND 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.
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

- * **HYMN 384** *Soon and Very Soon* SOON AND VERY SOON

- * **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

* SONG OF SENDING

Raise A Hallelujah

David/Hesler

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies.

I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief.

I raise a hallelujah; my weapon is a melody.

I raise a hallelujah; Heaven comes to fight for me.

(chorus) I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm.

Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar.

Up from the ashes hope will arise.

Death is defeated; the King is alive.

I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me.

I raise a hallelujah; I will watch the darkness flee.

I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery.

I raise a hallelujah; fear, you lost your hold on me. *(chorus 2 times)*