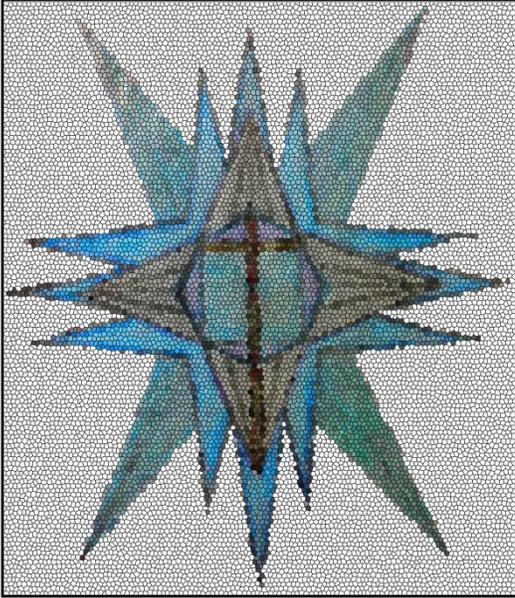


Advent 3 December 13, 2020
The 115th Anniversary of the faith community of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church



Every valley shall be lifted ...
Isaiah 40:4

ADVENT GATHERING: THE MYSTERY BEGINS

Announcements

As you prepare for worship, even gathered in virtual community and connected by God's beautiful and unfathomable design, you are invited to light a candle and center yourself to hear the Sacramental Word of God breaking into creation and you.

The mystery begins

Where the winter finds its feet
the rush of frost and chill
competes with the old hope of incarnation

Darker nights unfold
and with the fading of the light
the sun weakens

held by this frozen earth
wrapped in winters frost
the mystery of the ancient hope is
alight once more

for from the stump of Jesse
the dry old tree of David's line
comes a new branch

a new shoot
cracking through the season
with a promise yet unfulfilled

this is the hoping
the waiting
the advent

Let us gather round the words
the prophets spoke long ago
and believe:

Emmanuel is on the wayⁱ

Advent Wreath is Lit

Song 245 Creator of the Stars of Night (*progressively through the season*)

Greeting

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,

I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
 I will faithfully give them their recompense,
 and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
 and their offspring among the peoples;
 all who see them shall acknowledge
 that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 126

The LORD has done great things for us. *(Ps. 126:3)*

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
 then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,
 "The LORD has done great | things for them."

³The LORD has done great | things for us,

and we are | glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R**

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Sermon

Song

Creed for Advent

We believe in one God, who is Creator,
maker of all we see and all we don't see.
Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.
He is one with the Creator;
the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,
Breath of God moving among us;
Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ;
our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation!ⁱⁱ

Prayers of Intercession

On this third Sunday of Advent, we join in prayer as we await God's salvation, responding to each petition with the words "**Mighty Savior, come and save us.**" *A brief silence.*

God of prophets and preachers, strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, and lay leaders. Protect Christians who are persecuted for the faith. While churches await a full return to assembly worship, empower the baptized with your faithful Spirit. Embed your word in our hearts.

We pray for the church:
Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of creation, grant relief to endangered animals and plants. Protect the rain forests. Provide for those who rely on nature's rhythms for their livelihood. Train us to dwell on this earth in such a way that all people may thrive.

We pray for the earth:
Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of all lands, plant in the leaders of every nation a love of justice and a commitment to serve the common good. Calm tensions in the Middle East, and bring peace where civil conflicts rage. Release child soldiers from forced service. Equip regions to rebuild cities that have been destroyed by war.

We pray for the nations:
Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of exiles and wanderers, give a homeland to refugees. Provide housing for those whose dwellings have been destroyed. Protect street

people from the cold and be with teenage runaways. Uphold the work of ELCA Good Gifts, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and all disaster relief organizations. Comfort all who feel isolated from others.

We pray for all in distress:
Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of the sorrowing and the brokenhearted, give health to the sick, relief to medical workers, and comfort to mourners. Attend to those with lifelong illness. We beg for an end to the coronavirus and a fair distribution of the vaccines. Receive our prayers for . . .

We pray for the sick:
Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of each one of us, we await peace and justice, health and wholeness. Sustain us as we await your coming. Hear now our unceasing prayers.

A longer period of silence.

We pray for ourselves:
Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of sinners and saints, while facing sadness and death, we grieve; yet we offer you praise for all the saints, especially the martyr Lucy, those who have died of COVID-19, and those whose names we call out to you now. . . . At the end, gather us into the joy of your glory.

We pray for your salvation.
Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God beyond all things, God dwelling among us now, receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus

Christ, who came, who comes, and who is coming now and forever.

Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Peace (In ASL)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Advent Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Word

Holy God,

the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.

We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness
and promise a new earth with peace for all.

For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,
who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,
and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.

For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God. **We magnify you, O God.**

Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.

Nurture our faith with your grace,
accompany us with your might,

and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.

For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

All praise to you, holy God,

today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen. Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ

Lord's Prayer

Although we struggle to resist division between self and God, self and other, in this moment we are perfectly united, praying as Jesus taught us:

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.

SENDING

Blessing (*based on Mark 13:24-37*)

And now go out into the world in peace.
Beware, keep alert, for we do not know the hour
when we will see the Son of Humanity coming in clouds
with great power and glory.
Be faithful in service and persistent in prayer;
be Advent people,
loving and serving the Lord. Amen.^{iv}

Song

Dismissal

Blessed are you, O God. You have done great things for us, and we rejoice in you! Send us
with the good news of your love to all who are sad or lonely.
Amen. Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Alek, Lori, Jonnie, Chandler, Larry, Keith,
Paxton, Bruce, Mary, Cathy, Marlene, Larry, Jim, Billie, Tara, Jeff, Mary, Dave, Jim & Tina, Craig, Stacy,
Ray, Pat, Doris, Richard, Mike and all who are in our prayers today.

Nursing Home: Ruth Elavsky, Pat Seglund, Don Johnson, Jim LeVeque, Babe Strand and Jean Moore
Assisted Living: Norma Secreast, and Donna McNally

In Service: Airman Craig Oas, Ryan Graves, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Sean Sutherland, Peter
Peterson, Brad Salmi, Mathew Moilanen and our veterans who have returned to their communities

General: All who deal with COVID-19 here in our neighborhoods and beyond.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday – December 16 – **Wednesday On-line Bible Study** – 5:30pm

Thursday – December 17 – **Advent On-line Evening Prayer** – 7 pm

Sunday – December 20 – **On-Line Worship Service** – 10:30am

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- ⁱ Roddy Hamilton, **Listening to the Stones**. <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/> Used by permission.
 - ⁱⁱ Copyright Lisa Frenz. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.
 - ⁱⁱⁱ ELCA Service of the Word: Supplemental Materials for Thanksgiving
 - ^{iv} Ruth Patterson, [Ministry Matters](#) website