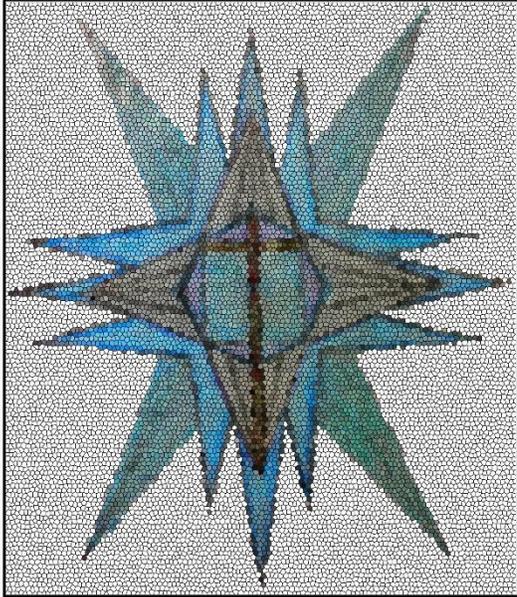


Advent 1 –November 29, 2020
The 115th Anniversary of the faith community of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down...
Isaiah 64:1

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 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, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
² 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!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ 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.
⁵ 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.
⁶ 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.
⁷ 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.
⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

Prayer for Israel's Restoration

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of
Asaph. A Psalm.

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the
cherubim, shine forth

² before Ephraim and Benjamin and
Manasseh.

Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be
saved.

⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with
your people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of
tears,
and given them tears to drink in full

measure.

⁶ You make us the scorn of our
neighbours;
our enemies laugh among
themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be
saved.

¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one
at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for
yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from
you;
give us life, and we will call on your
name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be
saved.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

24 'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and
glory. ²⁷ 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.

28 '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. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It 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. ³⁵Therefore, 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, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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 first Sunday of the church year, let us pray that God comes quickly to this weary world; we respond to each petition with words from today's psalm, "**Tear open the heavens and come down.**" *A brief silence.*

Immortal, invisible God only wise, we pray for the church, both our congregation and assemblies around the globe. Give us your life. Show us your presence. Grant us your wisdom. Shepherd for another year of grace our pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who minister in the church.

Stir up your strength, O God. **Tear open the heavens and come down.**

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, protect the animals, whether wild or farmed or tame. Restore devastated habitats and polluted waters. Calm the storms that devastate the coasts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it.

Stir up your strength, O God. **Tear open the heavens and come down.**

Mighty Fortress, protect all people who are poor or oppressed. Grant that the leaders of nations respond with justice and relief to those who suffer. We pray especially for the people of Honduras. Bless all elected officials as they assume new leadership roles.

Stir up your strength, O God. **Tear open the heavens and come down.**

Beautiful Savior, abide with us during December. Give your beauty to our holiday preparations in this challenging season and your grace to the many who have little to celebrate this year.

Stir up your strength, O God. **Tear open the heavens and come down.**

Mothering God, visit with your power any who are homeless or unemployed, and all who are hungry. Protect children from all manner of abuse. Comfort those who live with chronic pain, anxieties, and addictions. We pray especially for...Shape us to become your arms of mercy.

Stir up your strength, O God. **Tear open the heavens and come down.**

Healer of our every ill, save all peoples from the coronavirus. Sustain medical workers and provide for hospitals and clinics. Heal the sick, accompany the dying, and comfort the mourners.

Stir up your strength, O God. **Tear open the heavens and come down.**

Rock of ages, we wait for you, we stand on you. Receive now our private prayers.

A longer period of silence.

Stir up your strength, O God. **Tear open the heavens and come down.**

Lord of all hopefulness, we give thanks for all the faithful: for Andrew, the first disciple to follow Jesus; for those who died while waiting for justice and peace; for all who have died of COVID-19; and for those we name here before you. . . . At the end, bring us with them into your shining presence.

Stir up your strength, O God. **Tear open the heavens and come down.**

Eternal God, strong to save, receive our prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus, who came, who comes, and who will come, to bring us life. **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.**^{iv}

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.**^v

Song

Dismissal

Embrace the God's gift of darkness, for it is there we detect that "the mystery of the ancient hope is alight" and that we are Jesse, green branches sprouting from the "dry old tree of David's line." Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Alek B., Lori Mattson, Jonnie True, Chandler Lundbom, Larry Ouellette, Keith Lundbom, Paxton Florek, Bruce Graves, Mary Kutsick, Cathy Mickelson & Family, Marlene Robbins, Larry Tweedale, Jim Marks, Billie Lindquist, Tara Henry 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

Tuesday – December 1 – World AIDS Day

Wednesday – December 2 – Wednesday On-line Bible Study – 5:30pm

Thursday – December 3 – Advent On-line Evening Prayer – 7 pm

Sunday – December 6 – On-Line Worship Service – 10:30am

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 Adapted from ELCA worship blog: <https://blogs.elca.org/worship>

^{iv} ELCA Service of the Word: Supplemental Materials for Thanksgiving

^v Ruth Patterson, [Ministry Matters](#) website