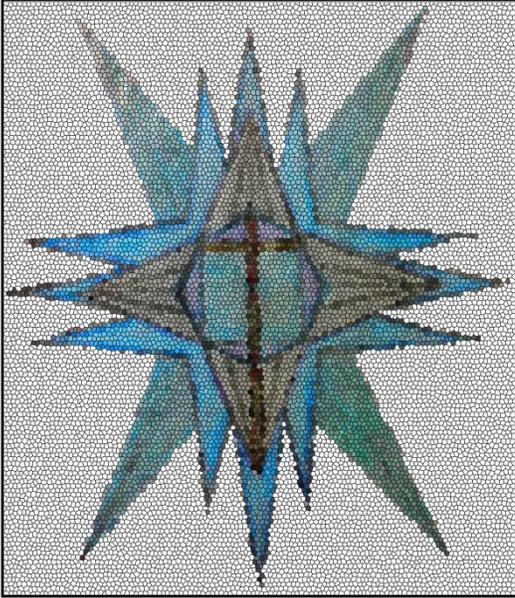


Advent 2 December 6, 2020
The 115th Anniversary of the faith community of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church



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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"
 All people are grass,
 their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
 when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
 surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
 but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good tidings;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
 lift it up, do not fear;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 "Here is your God!"
¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.
 Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway
 for God. (*Ps. 85:13*)

¹You have been gracious to your |
 land, O LORD;
 you have restored the good for- |
 tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of**
your people
and blotted out | all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is
 saying;
 for you speak peace to your faithful
 people and to those who turn their |

hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to |**
those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our
land. R

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have |
 met together;
 righteousness and peace have |
 kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from**
the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down
from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant

prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.
¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the
LORD

and shall prepare for | God a
pathway. R

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 second Sunday of Advent, let us pray for this weary world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "**In mercy, restore us.**" *A brief silence.*

Come to the church, O faithful God. Assist our Bishop, our Pastor(s), and all who minister in the church. Show us what is your way and where are your paths, and awaken all the baptized to the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come to the Jewish people, O covenant God, at this their festival of Hanukkah. End the world's anti-Semitism, and bring peace to Jerusalem.

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come to the earth, O creating God. As the seasons change, protect all that lives. Mend the wounds of environmental damage, and restore balance to ecosystems.

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come to the nations, O sovereign God. Inspire governmental officials to strive for peace within their land and between countries. Remember the people of Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Guide the nations towards cooperative efforts when facing global issues.

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come to our country, O righteous God. Teach us how to end discrimination and to value diversity. Bring political parties into helpful conversation with each other. Assist the unemployed, and uphold people with physical and developmental disabilities.

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come to all who are facing the coronavirus, O compassionate God. Protect the vulnerable. Heal the sick. Embrace the dying. Sustain medical workers. Prepare a vaccine. End this scourge.

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come to all who suffer, O merciful God. Empower us to feed the hungry in our nation and around the world. Gather into your healing embrace those who are afraid, lonely, sick, or struggling with depression. We pray especially for . . .

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come, O tender-hearted God, to each one of us, and receive our silent prayers.

A longer time of silence.

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come to us, O eternal God, as you came to the saints. We remember especially St. Nicholas in his care for children, and those we name before you now: . . . Bring us with them through our wilderness into the fulfillment of your promises.

O God, be gracious to us:
In mercy, restore us.

Come near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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, Jeff, Mary, Dave, Jim & Tina and Craig, 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 8 – Council Meeting – 6:00pm

Wednesday – December 9 – Wednesday On-line Bible Study – 5:30pm

Thursday – December 10 – Advent On-line Evening Prayer – 7 pm

Sunday – December 13 – On-Line Worship Service – 10:30am

ⁱ Roddy Hamilton, **Listening to the Stones**. <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/> Used by permission.

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ⁱⁱⁱ ELCA Service of the Word: Supplemental Materials for Thanksgiving

^{iv} Ruth Patterson, [Ministry Matters](#) website