



ADVENT: RESTORE REFUCUS REJOICE

How is God calling you to rejoice in and restore this Advent Season?

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THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

APPROACHED TO GOD

Before the service, meditate and speak to God. During the service let God speak to you. After the service talk to each other and the wider community about God.

KEYS

- Words printed in **ALL CAPS & bold** are spoken or sung by everyone.
- At places marked with the “✝,” you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Functionaries

On Piano

- Lindsay Lundquist

Singers

- Kirsten Earl

Scripture Reading

- Joan Glanfield

Minutes for Mission

- Kirsten Earl

Videographer & Editor

- Franklyn James



Order of Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful (vss 1-3) VU #60

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created, (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Light one candle for joy.

Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but our joy cannot be contained.

Like a toddler, toppling the thrones of power with a gleeful
swipe, Joy pierces our silence with song interrupts our
sighing with laughter unshackles our fumbling feet to dance.

“My soul magnifies the Lord,” she whispers,
“and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior.”

So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with
us..” [*Light Candles*]



HYMN: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star [vss 1-3] MV #220 †

Hope shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Peace shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Joy shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: God's spirit is upon us.

People: God has anointed each of us to be bringers of comfort and good news.

One: Some of us are discouraged, others are broken-hearted.

People: Some of us are joyful and filled with laughter; others of us long for better circumstances.

One: Restore us to each other and you, O God.

People: As we comfort one another and celebrate the good news, we remember God is with us and for us.

One: Come, let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: Listen God is Calling MV #97

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Mighty God, you call us to proclaim the good news, but we can be slow in proclaiming joy and faith. There are times when grief weighs us down; bitterness creeps into our hearts and minds.

People: We feel unworthy of the task of discipleship, afraid to claim the particular gifts you have given us. Like John the baptizer, however, we are not called to save the whole world.

One: We are called to point to Jesus and invite others into loving community. Restore our faith. Refocus our understanding of who we are in Christ that we may rejoice once more, and witness to the Light. Amen.

ASSURANCE

As a garden grows its seeds, so God will grow righteousness and praise" (Isaiah 61:11). We are made to grow in faith. We are beloved by God, cherished and forgiven always. God is good. And so are we.

ALL: Thank be to God! Amen

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- Christmas love letters from God

HYMN: One more step along the world I go [vs 1-3] VU #639

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old thing to the new,
keep me traveling along with you:

Refrain

*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
keep me traveling along with you.*

Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I lean;
All the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me: (Refrain)

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me traveling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know:

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Psalm 126 [Read from the Bible]
- **Luke 1:47-55 [VU 898-899]**
- 1st Thessalonians 5:16-24

THE REFLECTION

RESPONSE HYMN: Joyful, joyful we adore you VU #232

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before You,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

You are giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE [Based on Isaiah 61]

One: God of comfort and promise, we pray for the brokenness of the world. For the hungry and the hurting, the disappointed and the angry, we pray for your healing and restoration. Help us be involved in creating communities that actively care for the broken.

People: We pray for those who mourn and live with grief. May we be a presence and solace. We lift to you those discouragements we have experienced this week.

One: Discouragements in our families, our friendships, our jobs, even discouragement in ourselves. We lift to you, O God, the different things that drag us down. Restore our faith in you, O God.

People: Restore our faith in ourselves and each other. We have different hurts, worries, fears. We name them in our hearts and ask for help to trust you with them. Bring us comfort; plant the good news deep within our hearts.

One: Help us to see your restoration of the world when we welcome a shy or unsure young child, when we listen to the doting story and share the joy of a grandparent.

People: Help us to see your promise of healing in the crusty exterior of someone genuinely trying to be kind.

One: As we grow in faith, we pray for the ability to rejoice always and to pray continually. We trust that the one who calls is faithful. Now and always. Amen.

THANK YOU, COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Comfort be among you.

Love be around you.

Go out into the world

Refocused on God's grace

Restored in heart and mind,

And Rejoicing at God's anointing of each and everyone us to share Good News.

CLOSING HYMN: Joy to the world (vss 1,2,4) VU #62

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders, of his love.



THANK YOUS & CREDITS

Thank you for participating in today's worship, I pray you have been greatly blessed.

Remember, for those we are unable to connect with any reason; call to buoy up their spirits, and/or pray for them and entrust them to the care of the divine.

Due to physical distancing caused by the Corona Virus, COVID 19, all church activities that require physical contact are suspended until further notice.

Those of you who are on PAR and those who mailed in the gifts and offerings thank you. You can also e-transfer your gift and offerings to zionunitedarmstrongbc@gmail.com

We are always happy to hear your comments and queries. If you have a prayer request you may use the messenger tab here or email them to standrewsenderby@hotmail.com

Call to Worship & Prayers - Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFUSION Advent Christmas 2020-2021 Copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2020

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Liturgy for lighting the candle of “Peace” - Jackson, Karen Ware. (____). *One Candle: An Advent Liturgy for 2020*. Permission is granted for home and congregational use.

Prayers of the people – Spark, David. (Pastoral prayer to share: Prayers for the people for each Sunday of the church year: Year B Revised Common Lectionary. 2011), pp, 30-31

MUSIC CREDITS

O Come, All Ye Faithful – Voices United #60

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Listen, God Is Calling – More Voices #97

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