



First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Daniel's Hope in God

*Daniel's loyalty to worshiping only God turned an entire kingdom toward God.
Sometimes a small gesture can make a huge difference.*

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

Announcements

Gathering Music

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Red ELW 240 vs. 1

Light one candle to watch for Messiah
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise

Confession & Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

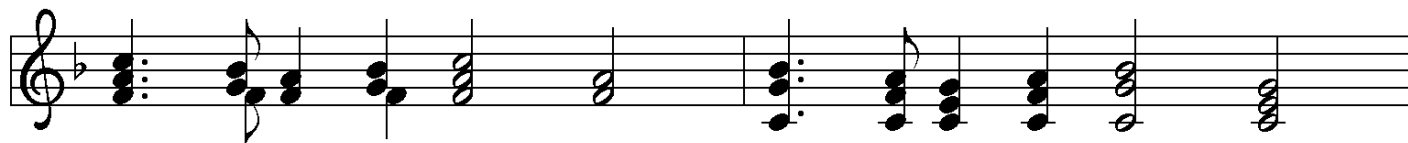
Pause for silence and reflection.

Renewing God,

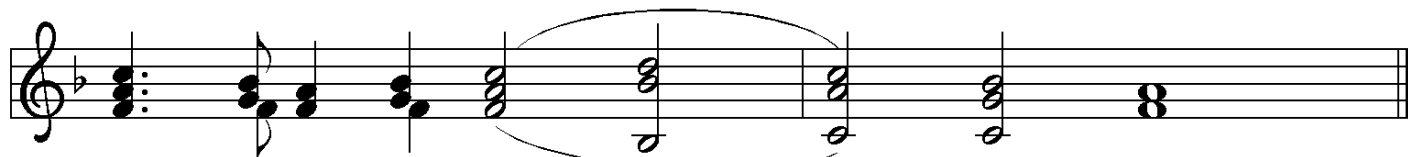
You have come into our world to live among us, yet we often lose sight of this and seek to manufacture our own truth. We are afraid to share your word lest others judge or mock us. We ignore your wisdom because it isn't convenient. We allow ourselves to be defeated by despair. Forgive our negligence and breathe new life into our heavy hearts.

God knows our every weakness and still loves us and upholds our life. May your sins be forgiven, your past forgotten, and your hope restored in the name of our incarnate savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Kyrie



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Song

All Earth is Hopeful

Red ELW 266 vv. 1,2,3

**All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

Prayer of the Day

Protective God, You guarded over your faithful servant Daniel when his life was threatened, because he refused to dishonor you. Show us the power that the smallest acts of faith may have to influence the world for good, by the help of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

*When jealous advisors tricked the king into outlawing worship of God,
Daniel remained loyal to God. After surviving the sentence of execution by lion,
Daniel's courage turned an entire kingdom toward God.*

Invitation to the Word

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Red ELW 257

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Scripture Reading

Daniel 6:6-27

⁶So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict. ¹⁰Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously.

¹¹The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. ¹²Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day." ¹⁴When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. ¹⁵Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed." ¹⁶Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" ¹⁷A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. ²⁰When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! ²⁶I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end. ²⁷He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

*Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.***

Message

Special Music

Thou Dids't Leave Thy Throne

- arr. Dan Forrester

Proclamation of Faith

**We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

**We believe that God became flesh and blood,
entered a rebellious, wayward, and broken world
and absolutely changed everything.**

**We believe that the risen Jesus is the light of the world,
reconciling all things to God, making all things new,
and redeeming his creation.**

**We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with the suffering, and waits with us for rebirth.**

**We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate all being made new.**

Prayers of the People

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

The perceived threats and dangers of this world don't seem as overwhelming when we turn to you, O Lord. Tame the lions which paralyze us from moving forward in faith and courage.

Almighty God, **Hear our prayer.**

Turn us away from the frenzy of holiday merchandising, that we might be fully present to anticipate the fulfillment of your promise. May our days be filled with light and hope as the hemisphere enters its darkest season.

Almighty God, **Hear our prayer.**

We have demonized, exploited and driven the wildness of your creation to extinction. Bless the work of all those who attempt to rescue endangered species and protect threatened habitats.

Almighty God, **Hear our prayer.**

When we feel we are most abandoned and alone, it is then that you come to us with your holy presence and comfort. Be especially with those who feel isolated at this time of year, and with those whose needs are particularly known to us today...

Almighty God, **Hear our prayer.**

Hold all your saints and martyrs in your eternal care, safe until the day when all the living and the dead shall be reunited in your love.

Almighty God, **Hear our prayer.**

Other petitions may be offered.

Our eyes await the fulfillment of all your promises, the answer to all our prayers: your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, ho - ly be your name. Your King - dom come.

Your will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Keep us from temp - ta - tion, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the King - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Sharing God's Peace

"Comfort, comfort, now my people, tell of peace!" So says our God.
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Reading

Blessing for Waiting: A poem by Jan Richardson

Who wait for the night to endbless them.

Who wait for the night to beginbless them.

Who wait in the hospital room, who wait in the cell, who wait in prayer . . .
bless them.

Who wait for news, who wait for the phone call
who wait for a word, who wait for a job, a house, a child . . .
bless them.

Who wait for one who will come home
who wait for one who will not come home. . .
bless them.

Who wait with fear, who wait with joy
who wait with peace, who wait with rage
who wait for the end, who wait for the beginning
who wait alone, who wait together . . .
bless them.

Who wait without knowing what they wait for or why . . .
bless them.

Who wait when they should not wait
who wait when they should be in motion
who wait when they need to rise
who wait when they need to set out . . .
bless them.

Who wait for the end of waiting
who wait for the fullness of time
who wait emptied and open and ready
who wait for you, . . O bless.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Come and Set Us Free

Refrain

**Come, come, Lord Jesus
Come, come save your people.
Come and set us free.**

**Awaken our hearts to the pow'r of your love.
Awaken our hearts to your mercy.
Free us, O Lord, from the power of sin.
Set us free *Refrain***

**Awaken our hearts to the pow'r of your truth.
Awaken our hearts to your justice.
Teach us and guide us for you are the way.
Set us free *Refrain***

**Awaken our hearts to your holy ways.
Awaken our hearts to forgiveness.
Lead us O Lord, to the light of your truth.
Set us free. *Refrain***

Sending

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

As with Gladness Men of Old



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz & Michael TeKrony
- Assisting Minister: Eric Kurtz
- Prelude/Postlude/Gathering Music: Jordan Ortman
- Liturgy Leaders: John Reed, Andy Steitz, Marilyn Douglas,
Lindsey Bosak-Simmons, Susan & Michael Boehm
- Liturgy Musicians: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Opening Song: Dave & Brenda Gleason, Jordan Ortman
- Special Music: Jordan Ortman
- Lord's Prayer: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues,
Larry Lagerberg, Karen Novess
- Closing Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Photographs: Winston Herbert, Michael TeKrony, Ron Skabo