

“Making Room (Hope)”

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

PRELUDE

“Sleepers Awake”

Johann Sebastian Bach

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Newsom

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another with signs and words of peace.

*SONG OF CENTERING

“Hope Waits for Us at Advent”

D A/D G/D D

4 A/D G/D D D/F# G A D D/F#

Hope waits for us at Ad - vent. Hope waits for
 Peace waits for us at Ad - vent. Peace waits for
 Joy waits for us at Ad - vent. Joy waits for
 Love waits for us at Ad - vent. Love waits for

8 G A Bm G A D Em Cmaj7

us to trust. Hope waits for our com - mit - ment to a land that's
 us to rest. Peace waits for our ac - cep - tance of the truth that
 us to sing. Joy waits for our a - maze - ment at the grace in
 us to care. Love waits for our com - pas - sion, free - ly off - ered,

12 A sus A G2 D/F# Em7 D/F#

kind and just. In this time of pre - par - a - tion
 we are blessed. In this time of pre - par - a - tion
 e - very - thing. In this time of pre - par - a - tion
 ful - ly shared. In this time of pre - par - a - tion

15 G2 D/F# Em7 D/F# G2 D/F#

for the work of co - cre - a - tion, for the birth - ing
 for the work of co - cre - a - tion, for the birth - ing
 for the work of co - cre - a - tion, for the birth - ing
 for the work of co - cre - a - tion, for the birth - ing

18 G A Bm C G D2

of a world that heals the ones in pain,
 of a world of gen - tle - ness and play,
 of a world where won - der is re - stored,
 of a world where faith shapes all we do,

21 Em7 D/F# G G/B Bm A D A/D G/D

Hope is born in us a - gain.
 Peace is born in us each day.
 Joy is born in us once more.
 Love is born in us a - new.

24 1, 2, 3. 4.
 D A/D G/D A/D G/D D

rit.

CALL TO WORSHIP – Lighting the Advent Candles

2 Readers

Reader 1: Economic disparity runs rampant, locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Reader 2: Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.

Light the first Candle

Reader 1: May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. Because there is room in this inn, a House for the Holy.

[The Liturgist invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit and sing the opening hymn.]

SONG OF GATHERING

"We Hail You God's Anointed"

NCH#104

1 We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed One!
2 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
3 The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense bring;
4 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, you on your throne shall rest;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing;
from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed:

You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said,
The tide of time shall nev - er your cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
your realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.
your name shall stand for - ev - er, your change - less name of Love.

[The Pastor invites the congregation to be seated.]

First Reading

Liturgist

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 (CEB)

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

**ALL: Gracious God,
So often we have questioned you
and turned away from you;
Not believing your will for us;
losing ourselves in the darkness of that disbelief
and failing not only ourselves,
but those whom we love.**

**Forgive us when we fail to walk in your ways,
when we have been hindered by our own weaknesses,
bringing a sense of guilt and sometimes despair.**

**Do not give up on us;
Take us by the hand and put us back on course.
Restore us to yourself**

**that we might lift up our hearts and minds and voices
to focus on Christ calling us to follow him wherever that may be.
In his name, Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray....

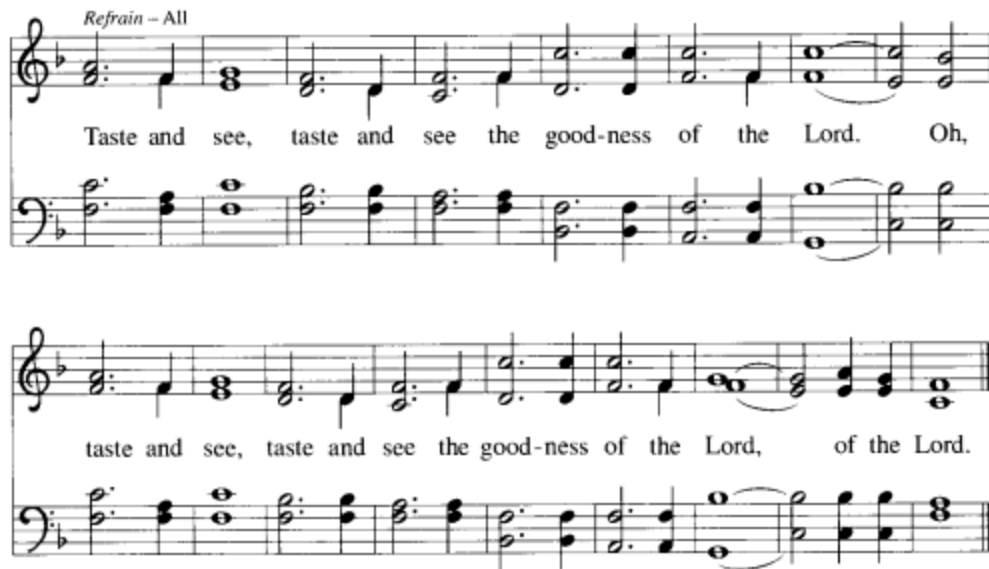
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

This Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and receive both as you return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, you will be served at your seat. There are gluten free crackers available on each plate.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Taste and See" (Refrain Only)



CHOIR ANTHEM

"Listen, Shepherds, Listen" by Carolee Curtright

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

Jeffrey

GOSPEL READING - Luke 21: 25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see" the Son of Man coming in a cloud_ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch

you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

SERMON – It's Scary, and There's Hope

Bill and Liturgist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bill Newsom

Pastor: ...We pray to you, our mother, using the words he gave us,
Saying together,

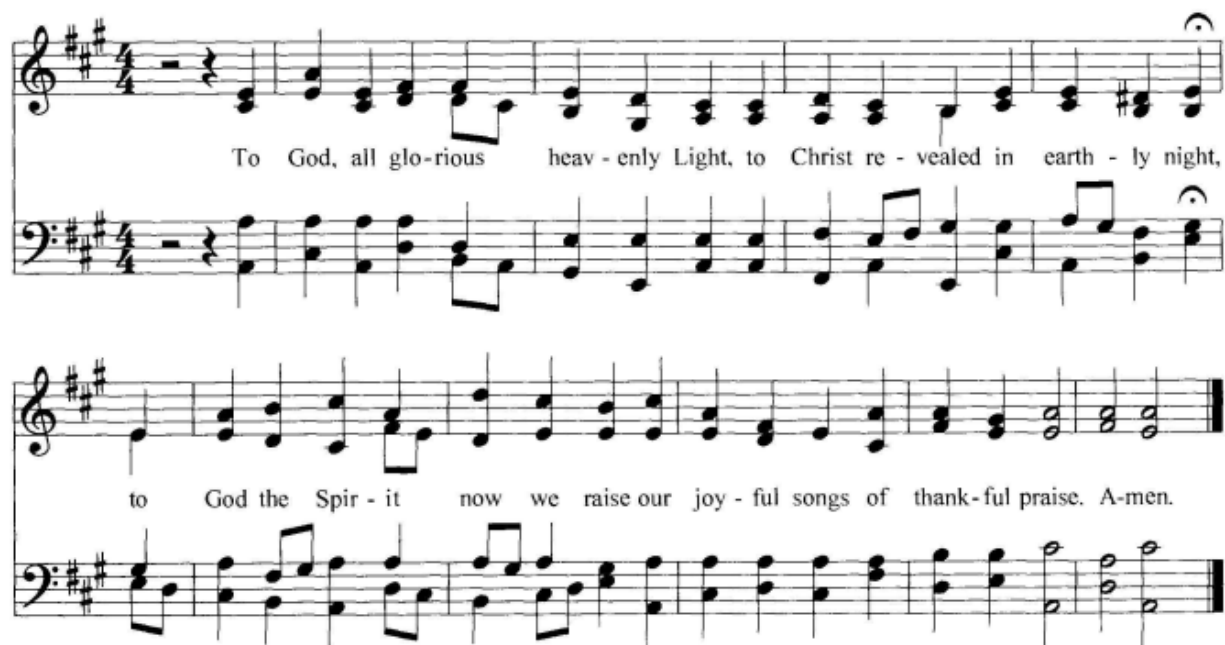
**People: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.**

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

Bill Newsom

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF OFFERING



CHARGE

Liturgist

Liturgist: The Bible doesn't actually mention an Innkeeper in the story of Jesus' birth. But this popular notion is alive in our imaginations. Sometimes the Innkeeper gets a bad rap, as if providing substandard accommodations for a family about to go through the birthing process. But what if we saw the innkeeper as someone who, with a full house, thought literally "outside the box" to solve a problem? What if we endeavored to do the same to provide ministry, to "house the Holy" in ways we have not yet imagined? This Advent season we will offer some stories to stir our imagination and stoke the possibilities for our own hospitality.

Liturgist: And now may God's door of welcome swing open in your heart and in your life. May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already know.

People: And may the Spirit lead us into more possibility and hospitality than we can imagine, making room in The Inn for all.

Liturgist: May it be so for you.

People: May it be so for us. May it be so for our church. Amen.

*SONG OF PARTING

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

NCH#133

MIC. 3-2; LAURE 2-9-1

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.
Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.
And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.
Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

*BENEDICTION

Bill Newsom

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune on “I Saw Three Ships”

Mark Himmelman