



Hope Lutheran Church Hybrid Worship Service November 27, 2022 — 1 Advent

*We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and worship on the
Traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Hay ch'qa.*

Welcome & Announcements

Come to the Light & Lighting of the Advent Candle

Come to the Light, the candle of HOPE, ev'ryone gather near.
Come to the Light and warm in its glow, Jesus will soon be here.
This is the time, this is the place, worship with joyful praise.
Lift up your voice, open your heart to grace.
Come to the light, the candle of HOPE
Everyone gather near, come to the light and warm in it's glow
Jesus will soon be here

(Reading)

Come to the light, the candle of HOPE
Ev'ryone gather near, come to the light and warm in it's glow
Jesus will soon be here, Jesus will soon be here.

Confession & Forgiveness

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them
to the one who is merciful and just. God of new beginnings,

**We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your
paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your crea-
tion. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we
may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By
water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on +Christ, and your sins
have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: #557 Awake, My Soul, And With The Sun

**Awake, my soul, and with the sun thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise to pay thy morning sacrifice.**

**All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and hast refreshed me while I slept.
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.**

**Lord, I my vows to thee renew. Disperse my sins as morning dew;
guard my first springs of thought and will; and with thyself my spirit fill.**

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**Direct, control, suggest, this day, all I design or do or say,
that all my pow'rs, with all their might, in thy sole glory may unite.**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

Glory to God (*Hymnal Setting Two, pages 121-22*)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. (Refrain)

***Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you
thanks, we praise you for your glory. Refrain***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: re-
ceive our prayer. Refrain***

***For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Corner

First Reading – Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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Psalm 122 (*sung responsively*)

R: *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)*

I was glad when they | said to me,
"Let us go to the house | of the LORD."

**²Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

**³Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;**

**⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD. R**

**⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.**

**⁶Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
"May they pros- | per who love you.**

**⁷Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.**

**⁸For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**

**⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good." R**

Second Reading – Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*Hymnal Setting Two, page 124*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

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For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



Matthew 24:36-44

Martin Luther was asked by one of his students what he would do if he knew that the world would end tomorrow. He replied that he would plant an apple tree because that's what he was going to do anyway. In other words, he felt *ready*, whatever happened.

Years later, when he was dying, many well-meaning friends rushed to his bedside, some insisting that he probably wanted holy communion in his final hour. He told them to take it away, because he trusted Christ all his life and didn't need a booster shot to calm him. In other words, he was *ready*. He had a sure hope.

The unexpected is a fact of life. The words of Jesus outline this in an unsettling and scary fashion today. If the point was to get our attention, it worked. However, we can also give thanks that he is the one who calls us together and announces that God is always with us. "*I will never leave you nor forsake you!*" is the sure hope we need when fear reaches for us.

No one knows

Some things you can count on. Some things you just don't know. Even Jesus admitted that. In the words of the *Apostles Creed* we say that God is *creator of heaven and earth...* and *judge of the living and the dead*. We can trust the fact that beginnings and endings, creation and closure belongs to God and that our faith can be

¹ Hebrews 13:5

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new every morning. But there is much we don't know, and the other readings remind us that God is central to life and always doing something even when stresses and uncertainty comes our way.

Who is this God of fingerprints and snowflakes, of humpback whales and heart-beat? How do microscopic cells reorganize and become a newborn infant with a cry at birth that seems to echo the ancient name of God: "*I am!*"

"I and the Father are one" Jesus said one time. As a result, faith receives a message that Jesus is God in a way that we can understand. He came to be for us a kind of "way" of knowing that, despite mysteries and fearful images of endings, we are loved. So announces baptism and this communion table.

Ordinary Life

He reminds us that we still eat and drink, marry and rejoice. It's not that much different from Noah's day. People work in field and kitchen and life continues on. Do we get the picture that God is with us in the very "ordinariness" of life? God is with us even as marriage becomes a paper exercise; as funerals drift from churches to halls; as creation itself and sunsets fade behind crowded buildings.

The Noah story evokes our own worries about climate change, floods, water issues, keeping species from extinction, the power of storms, the gathering of family, and needing space for everyone. God cares about such things. Some survived in that story. Some didn't. Isn't that the way life is? Whether we understand it or not, the person next to us can be gone in an instant.

All of the accompanying I have done with people in palliative and intensive care settings teaches me. There are things we need to say to each other, and do for each other, while we can. Do we take the time to talk, to laugh, to sing, to pray with the ones most important to us? Will we transform our conflicts into something life-giving? Will we quiet the quarrelling and make the most of the time? How will the memories we are building help others when we are gone?

These are questions of ordinary life, the life that Jesus lives with us.

Being ready... A sure hope.

We all face unexpected events at one time or another, like the example used of a thief who steals from us. Jesus (*God in a way we can understand*) offers God's response to our alarm: a cross that shares our pain and devastation; promises of com-

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passion and welcome as he gathers people like family; and assurance that God never lets us go. This is our sure hope.

With the cosmic image of the *Son of Man* returning, Jesus calls us to watch for arms of love that have always been present. That is how we are *ready*. That is what Martin Luther trusted.

The days shorten and the darkness grows, so we light Advent candles each Sunday to remind us that we are not lost in darkness. The light of the world comes. Like Luther, we can move forward with our living and our plans, whatever they might be, because whatever happens — we are ready. Christ is our sure hope.

Let's pray:

*Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Hymn of the Day #438 My Lord, What A Morning

Refrain:

***My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.***

**You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

**You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

**You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

Prayers of Intercession

With the words “*We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,*” you are invited to respond: “**Wait for the Lord.**” Watching and waiting as Advent begins, we pray for the life of the church, the world, and all who yearn for wholeness and spiritual wealth.

(A moment of silence)

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Knowing not the times and places that the Divine will break apart our ordinary lives, our assumptions, our sometimes sleepy lives, we turn our faces towards you. Strengthen us in our time together that we will be ready—and will be willing partners—in God’s perpetual working in our imperfect world, and in our imperfect lives.

We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,

Wait for the Lord.

Knowing not the outcome of our planet and the wondrous lives it supports, we take up our tasks to protect the environment. Sustain the balance of all living things, and save us from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, and fires and floods that diverse life may flourish.

We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,

Wait for the Lord.

Knowing not when our confusion, our pain, our distress will be wrapped up in your redemptive love, we await your coming. Feed us hope, day by day, small meals that encourage us to carry on. And, as we are fed, may we grow in the wisdom to demand the best from our leaders and take our place among those working against conflict, oppression, poverty, and hopelessness.

We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,

Wait for the Lord.

Knowing not when we or someone we love will be suffering, make us ready to be there with them. Warm the long nights of the homeless and all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for those we name aloud or quietly in our heart....

the family of Gladys B; Dave C; Bruce G; Arlene K; Carole & Clyde O; Chris & Gail L; Don L; the family of Dick M; Jack R; Ingvar; Louise; Maya; Peter & June; Quinn; Roland; Ruth N; Janice V; Zak & family.

We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,

Wait for the Lord.

Knowing not what is coming, and how you will re-enter the world over and again, guide us to see you in our world. Our congregation cries out to you to guide our worship life and community, that our hearts and hands reach out in generosity as we connect with the wider community.

We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,

Wait for the Lord.

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Knowing not when we will come to a calm acceptance of your coming into our lives and keeping us safe, make us patient. Teach us to surrender to the realities of life while never giving up on the vision that in dealing with our challenges and loving one another, we can find peace.

We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,

Wait for the Lord.

Knowing not when you will come, bless our partnership with the *Anglican Church of Canada* and other churches of our area; and our own **Bishops Kathy and Susan** as we seek to be your people together. We offer prayers for the churches of our synod, especially *Peace Lutheran* in Abbotsford and **Pastor Dean Andersen** and *Emmaus Lutheran* in Burnaby and **Pastor Timo Saarinen**.

We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,

Wait for the Lord.

Knowing not when other disasters will come for people of this world, we pray in distress and alarm over international political thuggery that leaves millions injured, maimed, hungry and homeless. Our hearts grieve over events in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Haiti, North Korea and China. Bounties of food are stolen or interrupted, property is destroyed and refugees have no place to find shelter. Aggression replaces diplomacy and human decency. Lord, have mercy on this world.

We sit in holy silence, basking in your presence,

Wait for the Lord.

You are blessed among us in all times and places, in the good times and the hard times. We swaddle our prayers in the warmth and safety of the Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace [*unmute*]

The peace of Christ is with you always!

And also with you!

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,
or some other gesture of peace)*

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... (*Pastor continues...*) ... and join their unending hymn:

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Holy, holy, holy (Hymnal, Setting 2, page 130)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy One the beginning and the end the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying; *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer Song (link below; inside back cover of hymnal)

[Mixcord](#)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Hallowed be your name, Hallelujah.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as in heaven, Hallelujah.**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Give us today our daily bread, give us today our bread,

Give us our bread today, Hallelujah.

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Forgive our sins as we forgive
Forgive our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us, Hallelujah.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Save us from the time of trial, save us from the trial.
Deliver us from evil, Hallelujah.
For the kingdom and the power are yours,
The kingdom and the power are yours,
the glory now and ever, Hallelujah.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Amen.

Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(those on Zoom will be communed first, and then those in the sanctuary)

Bread: “Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you.”

Cup: “Take and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you.”

Lamb of God *(Hymnal, Setting 2, page 135)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: #522 As We Gather At Your Table

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life,
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave,
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

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Benediction:

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who hold us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song: #246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

**Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness all you children of the day!"**

**Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.**

**See the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;**

**So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.**

**Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son
with the everliving Spirit while unending ages run!**

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God!

+

Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: (musician selecting hymns): *John Collett*

Reader: *Martin Madelung*

Prayers: *Shirley Forwell*

Communion Assistants: *Flo Bender, Marilyn Gross, Carolyn Iles, Frieda Kalack*

Zoom Hosts: *Sue & Garth (Spotlighter); Jamie (C1/PTZ); Marlis (C2).*

Zoom Greeters: *Bill & Caroline Fehr, Sue Grant, Dorothy Pagan*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

Pianist: *Pippa Williams*

Readings for Sunday December 4 — 2 Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

