

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN

Christ Be Our Light

715:2,5

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Shine through the darkness.
Longing for hope, many despair. Christ, be our light!
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Shine in your church gathered today.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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ADVENT PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people. As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,

let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

WELCOME

- Welcome to worship!
- Welcome and thanks to the band for leading worship at both services this morning!
- If you are joining us from home, I invite you to gather some bread and wine/juice so you can join us in celebrating Holy Communion this morning.
- Blue Christmas Service, Wednesday December 15th at 6:30pm in the sanctuary
- Thank you for wearing a mask during worship!

WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined. A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God. Word of Life,
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

The holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

SERMON

Pastor Sarah Miller

SONG OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway

264

APOSTLES' CREED

Together we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; all who are oppressed; and those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, lonely, or ill *especially Darcy Hayden; Ruth Gilbertson; Ken Applehans; Betty Chryst; Dan Wold; Cheryl Hoff; Steve Brown; Lucille Whittier; Avis Smithback; Robby Jaeger; and Elinor Wood.* Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*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.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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. 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. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Hear the Angels

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray,

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

BRIEFING THE MINISTERS

SENDING SONG

I Hear a Sound

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER CONCERNS	Darcy Hayden; Ruth Gilbertson; Ken Applehans; Betty Chryst (Martha Bauer's sister); Dan Wold; Cheryl Hoff; Steve Brown; Lucille Whittier; Avis Smithback; Robby Jaeger (Jeff Jaeger's brother); Elinor Wood (Donna Lark's sister)
IN THANKSGIVING	Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, missionaries in Japan Kasungu Central, Our Malawi Sister Parish

TODAY, DECEMBER 5th	
8:30am	Worship Service
9:35am	Sunday School
10:30am	Worship Service
THIS WEEK	
Dec. 7	Muriel Mikkelson's Funeral, 11am
Dec. 7	Mission Endowment meeting, 6pm
Dec. 8	Confirmation, 6pm
Dec. 10	Lee Leidal's Funeral, 2pm
UPCOMING EVENTS	
Dec. 13	Cookie Bake, 6pm