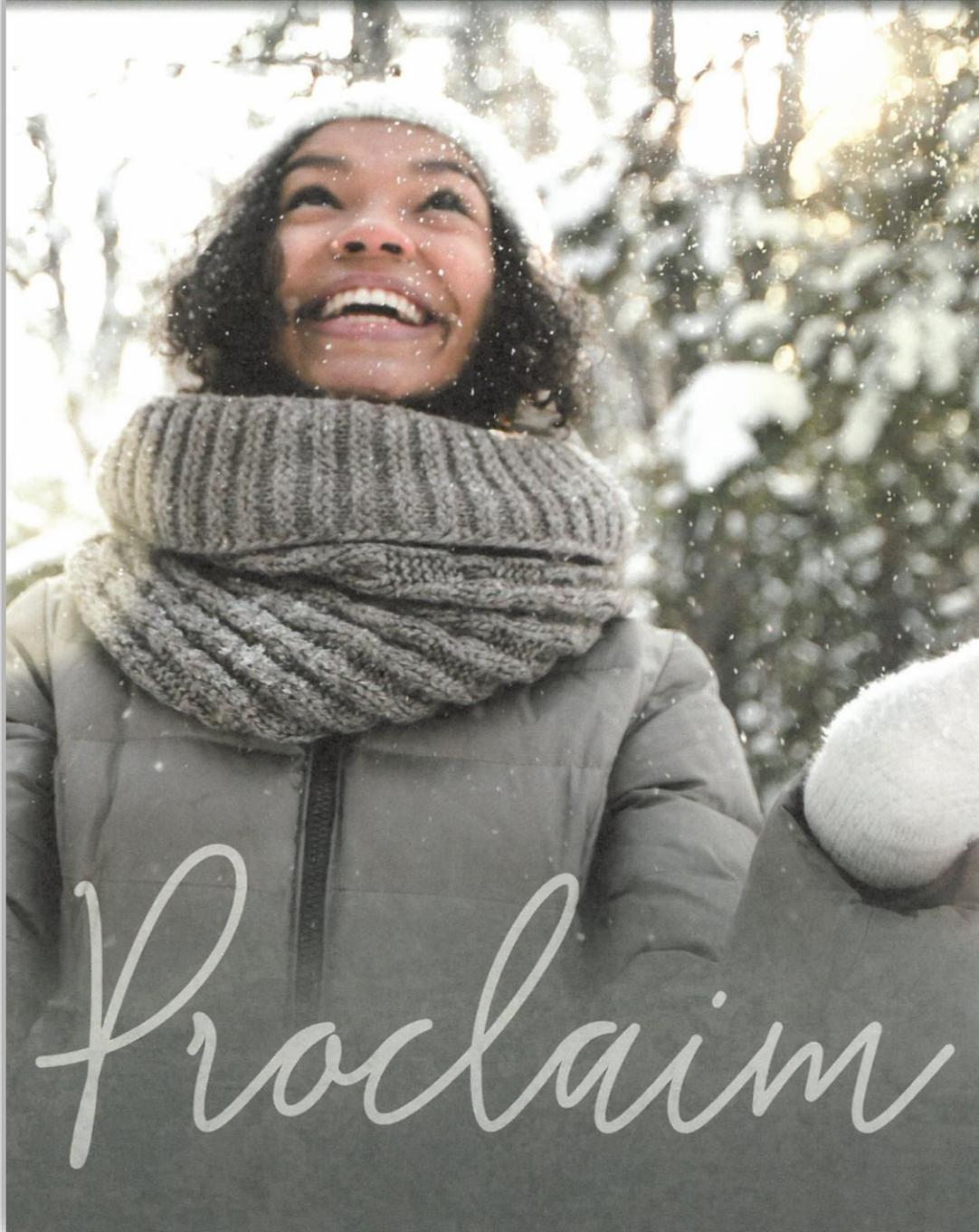


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

P R E P A R E Y E



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

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web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

PREPARE YE THE SEASON OF ADVENT “Proclaim”

PREPARE YE

**“Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight
in the desert a highway for our God.” *Isaiah 40:3***

Welcome to our Advent worship. Each week in this series we will contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas. In our worship for the fourth week in Advent we will contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. **John the Baptist stands as the forerunner of all future proclaimers of Christ and gives us the courage to use our own voices to proclaim our devotion to the One who is born to save.**

*“The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.”
*Psalm 145:6**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

(All four candles on the Advent wreath are lit.)

We light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath as we proclaim the good news that God has sent us his Son.

The Savior of the world has come!

God has kept his promise!

The Savior of the world has come!

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

Almighty God, we have the good news of Jesus to share, but too often we keep that news to ourselves. We do not live in a way that reflects the light of your love. Forgive us and help us to proclaim to others the peace that we have in Christ Jesus.

God sent his Son to save us. Jesus died on the cross for us and our sins are washed away in his blood. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We will proclaim the awesome deeds of God our Savior!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Moses writes in our first lesson, “I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is perfect and all his ways are just. He is the God of faithfulness who does no wrong.”

Therefore, with contrite and broken hearts, we confess our sin.

Heavenly Father, we come to you because you are faithful and your ways are just.

But we are soiled by sin.

Dirty from misdeeds.

Grimy from guilt.

Lost in a cesspool of selfishness.

Though you are faithful.

We are faithless.

Though you are just and upright.

We can be unjust and dishonest. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

John the Baptist came proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He pointed to the one who is mightier—Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus loves you. Jesus died for you. Jesus lives for you. And Jesus forgives your every sin. And so we say to the world—

All flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

OPENING SONG *“Joy to the World”*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n 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.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world 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.*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING THE PEACE

ADVENT LITANY – “*Proclaim*”

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

Let us proclaim the name of the Lord and ascribe greatness to our God!

He is the Rock, his work is perfect and all his ways are just.

He is the God of faithfulness who does no wrong.

John came proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

As it is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet—all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus whose birth, baptism, teaching, miracles, death and resurrection empower us to see your mighty salvation. With the open eyes of faith we thank, praise, serve and obey you; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

²May my teaching drop like the rain,
my speech condense like the dew;
like gentle rain on grass,
like showers on new growth.

³For I will proclaim the name of the LORD;
ascribe greatness to our God!

⁴The Rock, his work is perfect,
and all his ways are just.
A faithful God, without deceit,
just and upright is he;

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-16

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.'"

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Speaking in a prophet's voice

(Cup hands around mouth)

And with his shaggy hair,

(Put hands on top of head)

John announced, "The Savior comes!

(Point to one side)

Repent! His way prepare!

(Shake finger as if in warning)

Let valleys rise to meet him

(Raise both hands, palms up, in a lifting motion)

And hills bow down today,

(Palms downward, push down with both hands)

For Jesus is the Lamb of God,

(Point up)

Who takes your sins away!"

(Place both hands over your heart)

Family Advent Craft: Wooden Craft Stick Cross

Family Advent Conversation

*Instructions and questions for today's craft
are at the end of the bulletin.*

SERMON "The Word of God Came to John"

Harlan Nyhus

SONG OF THE DAY "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

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 THE COMMUNITY

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Divine Warrior who fights for us. Whether it's a mere skirmish or an all-out assault, the battle belongs to you, Lord. Fear and discouragement are not the order of the day; faith and hope are. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Lord Jesus Christ, often we feel like Gideon taking on the Midianite army; like David standing before Goliath; like Elijah facing 400 prophets of Baal; like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in a fiery furnace; like Esther against the Persian government. It's not our competence but your presence that matters. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Lord Jesus Christ, when it seems like evil and terror will triumph, give us eyes to see your power and your might. When we're under attack by the seducer, accuser and condemner, let us see your scars, your resurrection triumph and your all-sufficient grace. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Lord Jesus Christ, when we have to confront darkness in broken people and broken situations, protect us and empower us through the gospel. When our divided hearts wage war inside us and we're tempted to look for another savior, come to us and fight, Jesus, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

BLESSING

“For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.”

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.”

Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

SENDING SONG *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

*Refrain Go tell it on the mountain,
 over the hills and ev'rywhere;
 go tell it on the mountain
 that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching
 o'er silent flocks by night,
 behold, throughout the heavens
 there shone a holy light. Refrain*

*The shepherds feared and trembled
 when, lo, above the earth
 rang out the angel chorus
 that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain*

*Down in a lonely manger
 the humble Christ was born;
 and God sent us salvation*

that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim Christ and His deeds!
Thanks be to God.

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

*Please send your gifts to your Treasurer or
give through Tithely (link on oneinchristlutheranparish.org)*

Postlude



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Family Advent Craft: Wooden Craft Stick Cross

Needed: large size craft sticks (like large popsicle sticks); glue; scissors; water-based paint and paint brushes; paper towels; glitter; felt markers; crayons; pieces of cardboard to hold the crosses as they dry; string, yarn or ribbon; small plastic cups for paint and water.

Directions:

1. Use three large craft sticks for each cross. Layer one stick over another to form the cross-piece. Place a third stick just below the place where the two sticks cross. Glue the sticks together and let them dry in place.
2. Tape a loop of ribbon or string to the back of the cross.
3. Use paint, markers, crayons or glitter to decorate the cross. Participants might want to put words on the cross, such as “Jesus Loves Me,” or “Jesus Is King.” The cross can also be left undecorated.
4. Use the finished cross in your home or give the cross to a friend or neighbor.

Family Advent Conversation

Discuss these questions as you work on the craft or after the craft is complete:

1. What special things do you do in your home to celebrate Christmas?
2. Why is a cross a good reminder for us, even at Christmas?
3. How can you use the cross as part of your family Christmas decorations?