

December 18, 2022
Calvary Lutheran Church, Morro Bay
Fourth Sunday of Advent



PRELUDE

Ina Davenport

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 creation.

**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.

We have put on ✝ Christ,
and our sins have been washed away.

Let us rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn #242 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Awake, Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

**O darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory**

GREETING

In the name of God the Creator, in the name of Christ the Redeemer,
in the name of the Guiding Spirit, Alleluia, Amen.

GATHERING SONG (call and response)

Ray Makeever

Come, let us worship God....**Come let us worship God.**
Come, let us worship God....**Come let us worship God.**
Welcome everyone....**Welcome everyone,**
To the love of God....**To the love of God.**

Rest for the weary....**Rest for the weary.**
Rest for the weary....**Rest for the weary.**
Welcome everyone....**Welcome everyone,**
To the love of God....**To the love of God.**

Food for the hungry....**Food for the hungry.**
Food for the hungry....**Food for the hungry.**
Welcome everyone....**Welcome everyone,**
To the love of God....**To the love of God.**

Hope for the children...**Hope for the children.**
Hope for the children...**Hope for the children.**
Welcome everyone....**Welcome everyone,**
To the love of God....**To the love of God.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Song **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #240** (red hymnal, rear section)

Light four candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray together... **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again God spoke to Ahaz, saying,
 Ask a sign of the Lord your God;
 let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.
But Ahaz said,

I will not ask, and I will not put God to the test.

Then Isaiah said:

“Hear then, O house of David!

Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

Therefore God indeed will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel.

He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows
how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good,
the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

[New Revised Standard Version]

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19. (the congregation responds with the bold words)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,

shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears,

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

[New Revised Standard Version]

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

[Paul wrote:]

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle,

set apart for the gospel of God,
 which was promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy scriptures,
 the gospel concerning God's Son,
 who was descended from David according to the flesh
 and was declared to be Son of God
 with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead,
 Jesus Christ our Lord,
 through whom we have received grace and apostleship
 to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles
 for the sake of his name,
 including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[New Revised Standard Version]

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #174 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

The gospel passage for today is from Matthew, the 1st chapter, beginning with the 18th verse.

Glory be to you, Oh Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,
 but before they lived together,
 she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man
 and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,
 planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this,
 an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
 "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
 for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit
 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,
 for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the young woman shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
 which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;
 he took [Mary] as his wife,

but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;
and he named him Jesus.

[The New Revised Standard Version]

This is the gospel indeed.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Beautiful Dreamer

Pastor Stein-Webber

SERMON HYMN My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness #251 (red hymnal, rear section)

**My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim –
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.**

**To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.**

**To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the most High, one God by all adored.**

[The author of this hymn, which first appeared in the Lutheran supplementary hymnal With One Voice, is unknown. I am suspecting that the author is/was a shy Lutheran. The tune, Kingsfold, is of old English origin.]

APOSTLE'S CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's 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 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 PEOPLE

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment.

Comfort any who are isolated or lonely.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially,

- Jennifer Kurrle - recovering from recent hospitalization
- Linda Hecker, Gail Brochtrup's sister, dealing with COVID and MS at the same time
- Heidi Carney - death of her friend Sylvia
- Nick Larsen in the recent death of his wife Judith
- Dan & Kathie Sperow - Recovering from Covid
- Ina Davenport - Health issues
- Sean Osterthaler - Recovering from surgery for broken ankle
- Aaron Brochtrup - Concussion from vehicle rollover after job related vehicle pursuit
- Janelle Muff -Healing after surgery
- Joanne Kulczyk – recovering from a fall
- Pastor Brian - recovery from Bell's Palsy
- Family of Edith Tway who passed on October 12
- Pastor Jim Berg – dealing with health issues
- L.C - Improved mental health
- Sally Mingo, Jennifer Kurrle's mother - knee injury
- Arthur Hendey, Kea McKee's brother - spine surgery
- Jean Senter and family - death of her cousin Paul Weggenmann
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas - in on-going home rehabilitation care.
- Linda Luke- recovering from recent procedure and to gain weight and strength

- Rebecca Aparicio, Nancy Padilla's mother-in-law - living in a nursing home
- Becky Padilla- responding well to treatment for cancer
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- Lia, Ina Davenport's friend- recovering well from a broken back
- James Hecker- experiencing new complications following bladder replacement surgery
- Christopher Buckles, Kate Anderson's son
- Katie Brochtrup- facing oral surgery
- Marcia and Rick Walt, friends of Cindy Haener
- Elaine Grawe- Recovering from recent fall
- Darel and Betty Sorenson - Betty remains in nursing care on Hospice
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother
- For Laura Salazar and her family
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting the new COVID-19 omicron variants, and that we might continue to observe mitigation guidelines
- For the people of Ukraine, for strength, healing and protection, and changes of heart for those attacking them.
- For Ken Brocks who celebrates his birthday this week

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.... **Eternal God,**
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be 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.

PREFACE

SANCTUS p. 173 (red hymnal, front section)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord.
 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it to his disciples, saying,
 "Drink this, all of you. It is the new covenant of my blood,
 shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this in remembrance of me.'

Let pray the prayer that our Lord Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
 Amen.**

CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Ray Makeever

**Christ, have mercy on us all,
keep us steadfast e'er we fall.
Break the bread, pour the wine.
Come and dine.**

**God, be with us at the feast.
Grant us wisdom, give us peace.
Break the bread, pour the wine.
Come and dine.**

**Holy Spirit, breathe again.
Light the darkness, be our friend.
Break the bread, pour the wine.
Come and dine.**

**Bake a great loaf, give it time;
choose the best grapes from the vine.
Break the bread, pour the wine
Come and dine.**

TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION

[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ. During the distribution of Communion, you may also seek prayers of healing at the chair by the baptismal font.]

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:
**Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
AMEN.**

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN O Come, O Come Emmanuel #257 – verses 1, 3-6
(red hymnal, rear section)

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

REFRAIN

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height.
 In ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

REFRAIN

**O come, O Branch of Jesus, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
 from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

REFRAIN

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

REFRAIN

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.**

REFRAIN

[This hymn was originally a seven-verse poem dating back to the 8th century. It was used as a call-and-response hymn during an evening service. Each verse expounds on a different name for Jesus. The tune as originally for a funeral mass in 15th century France.]

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Ina Davenport

Thank you to:

- **Cindy Haener** for assisting in worship.
- **Nancy Koppl** for teaching Sunday School.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Ina Davenport** for accompanying worship.
- **Janet Lorenzo** and others for streaming worship.
- **Janet Lorenzo** for editing and assembling worship bulletins.
- **Nancy Padilla**, for setting up and welcoming.
- **Gary and Mark Orback**, for tending to our outside property.
- **Sophia and Janet Lorenzo**, for tending to our inside property.
- **Ken Brocks and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.

Events this week:

- **All are welcome** to linger after worship in the fellowship hall.
- **The Zoom discussion group** will meet tonight at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We will be discussing Episode 2 of Season 3 of The Chosen.
- **Bible Study** will be on hiatus until the new year.
- There will be an **Open House reception for former Pastor Robyn Provis** this Wednesday, December 21st, starting at 1:45 pm in the fellowship hall and continuing until 3:45 pm. Come when you wish!
- **Christmas Eve worship** will be this Saturday, December 24th, starting at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- **Christmas Day worship** will be this coming Sunday, December 25th, starting at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.
- **New Year's Day worship** will be on Sunday, January 1st, starting at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.
- **Epiphany Day worship** will be on Friday, January 6th, starting at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- Let Pastor Brian know if you would like to **start receiving his weekly emails**.
(bsteinwebber@gmail.com)