



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALVARY Lutheran Church
480 MONTEREY AVE.
MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA
Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

December 3, 2023
First Sunday in Advent



PRELUDE**John Cribb****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****Pastor Brian Stein-Webber****ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways

for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

GATHERING O Come, O Come Emmanuel #257 (verses 1, 4-6, 8) (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 Branch of Jesse, 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

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

REFRAIN

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Now the Feast and Celebration booklet p. 3

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.
A---men.

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

NTFAC booklet p. 4

REFRAIN

**Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.**

REFRAIN

**Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ, forever.**

REFRAIN

**For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new.**

REFRAIN**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. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

SONG **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #240 (verse 1)**
 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
 He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

*(The congregation will read the **bold** words.)*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
 as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
 to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
**When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.**
 From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
 no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
**You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.**
 But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.
 We have all become like one who is unclean,
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
**We all fade like a leaf,
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.**
 There is no one who calls on your name,
 or attempts to take hold of you;
 for you have hidden your face from us,
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
**Yet, O Lord, you are our Maker;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.**
 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
 and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
 stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
 the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9*(The congregation reads the **bold** words.)*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you

because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

or in every way you have been enriched in him,

in speech and knowledge of every kind—

just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—

so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift

as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end,

so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful;

by God you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**Gospel Acclamation****Celtic Alleluia #174****(red hymnal, rear section)****Alleluia, Alleluia.****Alleluia, Alleluia.****Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24-37**

The gospel lesson for this First Sunday in Advent is from the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Mark, beginning with the 24th verse.

Glory to you, O God.

*(The congregation shall read the **bold** words.)*

[Jesus said:]

“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

**Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’
with great power and glory.**

Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson:
as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the
Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

**It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with
his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.**

Therefore, keep awake for you do not know when the master of the house will come,
in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the gospel indeed!

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Brian

SERMON HYMN All Earth is Hopeful #266 (red hymnal, rear section)

**All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God’s creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God’s truth and justice set ev’rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;
she conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev’ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

**We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief, especially,

- Katie Edson and family who lost their mother on November 28
- Wyatt Owen – 1 month old great nephew of Katie Edson – RSV in critical care
- Tom Bauer – recovering from surgery
- Joyce Bauer – recovering from double surgery
- Elaine Grawe
- Nancy Padilla – multiple dental procedures
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Robin Karas – Home from Bayside and recovering
- Christian – Heidi Carney's son – dealing with multiple ailments
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello's sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer

- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- Wes, brother of John Cribb – facing the choice between kidney dialysis and kidney transplant
- Byron Nelson - friend of Jacoby's - Cancer
- Mike Johnson - lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter – dealing with frontal temporal lobe dementia and aphasia.
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport – preparing to move to assisted living
- Aaron Brochtrup - for perseverance and patience while he works to recover from his injuries
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas – learning to live with condition
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- James Hecker- weighing treatment options for persistent infection
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting COVID
- For an end to the war in Ukraine
- For the earthquake victims in Afghanistan
- For the people of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of senseless gun violence
- For Carrie Forster-Osterthaler, Cindy Haener and Isabella Jacoby who celebrate their birthdays this week

,
Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You know each one of us and all for whom we care, so we now pray for those whom we have not named yet, who are in need of our support and intercession, especially,

[You may name out loud or in your heart, those who are on your hearts, this morning.]

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.
Let us share that peace with one another.

OFFERING SONG Create in Me a Clean Heart #186 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

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**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

NTFAC booklet p. 11

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;
 heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
 Hosanna in the highest, 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 us 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.**

TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION

[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ. Gluten-free bread is available if you ask for it, and alcohol-free grape juice is in the center ring of the tray. During the distribution of Communion, you may also seek prayers of healing at the chair by the baptismal font.]

You are invited to bring to the altar pictures or names of loved ones, to exemplify that whole hosts of believers who have come and will come to the table of blessing.]

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THANKS BE TO YOU

NTFAC booklet p. 15

**Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!**

**From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!**

**Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

**Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

**Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you
now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus #254 (red hymnal, rear section)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
 dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
 born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE**John Cribb**

Thank you to:

- **Jean Senter** for being worship assistant.
- **John Cribb** for accompanying.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Joyce Bauer, Nikki Rocha and Kathie Sperow** for preparing communion.
- **Janet Lorenzo** and others for streaming worship.
- **Janet Lorenzo and Gail Brochtrup** for editing and assembling bulletins and the newsletter.
- **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, Dan Sperow, Andrew Jacoby, Mike Lorenzo and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.
- **The Church Council**, for leading our congregation.

Events this week:

- **The discussion group on The Chosen** will meet tonight at 7:00 pm on Zoom to discuss the Christmas programs of *The Chosen*.
- **Coffee Club** will meet tomorrow, Monday, December 4th at The Inn At Morro Bay
- **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** will be on Zoom on Monday, December 4th, at 9:30 am. If you want to join, please speak with Pastor Brian and he will send you an invitation. Next Sunday's Bible passages will be Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, and Mark 1:1-8.
- **Confirmation** will take place on Monday, December 11th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. The topic will be the **Review of the Old Testament**.
- **Bible Study** will take place on Wednesday, December 6th at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. The subject will be *Jesus as Messiah in Mark*.
- Gifts or donations for **Project Angel Tree** this year with Iglesia Santa Cruz, will be due at church by Sunday, December 17th, for timely delivery.
- **Thanks** to all who participated in **decorating** the sanctuary and fellowship hall for Advent and Christmas!

- Next Sunday, December 10th, we will have a **Christmas drama** in the place of the sermon. You may invite your friends, as usual! Thanks to Nikki Rocha and **Nancy Koppl** for their leadership.
- If you are planning for Christmas worship, **Christmas Eve** worship will be on December 24th at 5:30 pm, and **Christmas Day** worship will be on Monday, December 25th at 10:00 am. There **will** be **Advent worship** on Sunday, December 24th in the morning at 10:00 am.
- Let Pastor Brian know if you would like to **start receiving his weekly emails**.
(bsteinwebber@gmail.com)

Don't forget to check the Calendar website page for upcoming events:
morrobaylutherans.org