

ADVENT
Midweek Service
December 8, 2021 6:30 p.m.
Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
HOPE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: NOW THE HEAVENS START TO WHISPER

- 1 Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him.
- 2 Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.
- 3 Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 8:16-18

- ☞ Gather up the testimony, preserve the teaching for my followers, While I wait for God as long as he remains in hiding, while I wait and hope for him. I stand my ground and hope, I and the children God gave me as signs to Israel, Warning signs and hope signs from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, who makes his home in Mount Zion.

HYMN OF HOPE: COME TO BE OUR HOPE, O JESUS

- 1 Come to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set your people free.
From oppression, come, release us, grant us your true liberty.
Come, release from ev'ry prison those who suffer in our land.
In your love we find the reason still to live and understand.
- 2 Come to build your new creation through the road of servanthood;
give new life to ev'ry nation, changing evil into good.
Come and open our tomorrow for your joyful reign so near.
Take away all human sorrow; give us hope against our fear.

Text: Jaci Maraschin, 1929–2009, Portuguese and English; Spanish tr. Jorge Rodriguez

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SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:1b-5

- ☒ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast
in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character
produces hope, 5and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured
into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

MEDITATION: LINDA VOLCKMANN

HYMN OF HOPE: *All Earth Is Hopeful*

ELW Hymn 266, St. 1-2

- 1 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.
- 2 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.

BLESSING

- ☒ Let us bless our God:
☑ **Praise and thanks to you.**
- ☒ May God, Creator, bless us and keep us; may Christ be ever light for our lives;
May the Spirit of Love be our guide and path for all of our days.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Pastors Fritz Wiese and Miriam Beecher
Musicians Karl Dietmeyer and David Beecher