



4th Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021

Contemporary Service - 9:30 am

Scripture for Meditation

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long. (Psalm 25:5)

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship for Advent

based on Philippians 4:4-5

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.
People: I will say it again: Rejoice!
Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.
People: The Lord is near.
Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.
People: Let us worship God!

Praise and Prayer

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

CCLI #5601671 | Daniel Carson and Chris Tomlin
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Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Noel

CCLI #7050419 | Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, and Matt Redman
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Sacrament of Baptism

Charlotte Ardrey

Daughter of Jennifer and Christopher Ardrey

Announcements

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and online giving at
<https://villagechurchnorthbrook.org/give/>. Those attending live worship can
leave their donations in the offering plates in the Narthex.)

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

The Promise of God's Presence

Praise Song

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

CCLI #5601640; Chris Tomlin and Ed Cash
© 2009 Six Steps Music

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Song

Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)

CCLI #7051511 | Phil Wickham
© 2018 Phil Wickham Music

Blessing

Postlude

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Welcome and Announcement
Sermon
Worship Leader/Liturgist
Advent Candle Lighters
Scripture Readers
Prayers of the People
Worship Band (9:30)
Vocals (9:30)
Pianist (9:30)
Director of Music
Organist/Pianist (11:00)
Anthem (11:00)
Soloist (11:00)

Rev. Dr. Spencer Lundgaard
Rev. Greg Buell
Luke Stoner, Pastoral Intern
Lisa and Tony Amstutz (9:30), Daryl and Gina Erickson (11:00)
Elaine Holmquist (9:30), Jack West (11:00)
Elaine Holmquist
Carl Tobias (electric guitar), Christine Cheung (synthesizer)
Renate Graham, Matt Parks, Susan Mathein, Ellen Westel
Jim Peterson
Ruth G. Heald
Sharon Peterson
Village Church Choir
Damon Cole

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Traditional Service - 11:00 am

Scripture for Meditation

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long. (Psalm 25:5)

Prelude

The Snow Lay on the Ground

(Leo Sowerby)

Welcome and Announcements

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Call to Worship for Advent

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People: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

People: The Lord is near.

Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

People: Let us worship God!

Opening Carol

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#93

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.

(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Response

Of the Father's Love Begotten

(verses 1 & 2)

#78

Anthem

People, Look East

(arr. Howard Helvey)

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able. Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Guest, is on the way."
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength, the seed to nourish; that in course, the flow'r may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Rose, is on the way."
Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen, He for fledgling time has chosen.
People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Bird, is on the way."
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim;
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Star, is on the way."
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the Word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Lord, is on the way."

Scripture Reading **Isaiah 7:10-16**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon **The Promise of God's Presence**

Carol **O Little Town of Bethlehem** **#88**

Anthem **Domine, ego credidi**
(from Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saëns)

Domine, ego credidi, quia tu es Christus Filius Dei vivi, qui in hunc mundum venisti.
Lord, I trust that you are Christ Son of God incarnate, who came into this world.

Doxology **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn **Angels We Have Heard on High** **#82**

Benediction

Postlude **Savior of the Nations, Come**
(Johann Walther)

Reflection Questions

Background: King Ahaz ruled for around 20 years and was a corrupt King of Judah. He desecrated the Temple with some practices which eventually led to the downfall of the Kingdom of Judah many years after he was gone. Isaiah has a word of judgment and hope from God to King Ahaz in this passage. According to Isaiah 7, three powers are coming after King Ahaz's rule even though they will not succeed according to the Lord in vs.7-9. King Ahaz is unsure how to respond to these promises and perhaps hedging his decision as he considers how this interaction will play out for him. His corruption and self-serving nature is getting the best of him.

Opening Questions:

What are some of your favorite signs in the world today? They can be from the business world, school, friends, sports teams, etc. Why do they mean so much to you?

Spend a few moments considering how different signs influence your behavior. For example, "When I see the _____ sign, it makes me want to _____."

Dwelling in the Text:

What does Isaiah tell King Ahaz to do toward God? And why do you think Ahaz responds the way he does?

What does the boundary of Sheol (the dead) and Heaven tell us about what King Ahaz can ask of God?

Isaiah conveys four promises and threats. What are they?

1. Vs. 14

2. Vs. 15

3. Vs. 16

4. Vs. 17

As Christians, we know that Isaiah's word to King Ahaz is now understood to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The reference to Isaiah 7 is in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 1 vs 22-23, "*All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."*

When you think about the arrival of Jesus, who is "God with us," what type of comfort/confidence does it give you?

Where would you like to see God show up in the world today to make right that which is wrong?