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## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT – DEC 13, 2020

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/MUSICAL PRELUDE—KAREN HALL

ENTRANCE HYMN LBW #22 “The Advent of Our God” (*Stand, Sung*)

**The advent of our God Shall be our theme for prayer;  
Come, let us meet him on the road And place for him prepare.**

**The everlasting Son Incarnate stoops to be,  
Himself the servant’s form puts on To set his people free.**

**Come, Zion’s daughter, rise To meet your lowly king,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace he comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again,  
And all his scattered saints unite With him on high to reign.**

**Before the dawning day Let sin be put to flight;  
No longer let the law hold sway, But walk in freedom’s light.**

**All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit ever one Through all eternity.**

ADVENT CONFESSION (*Spoken*)

P: The true light that gives light to everyone has come into the world.

**C: From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.** (*John 1:9, 16*)

P: You have come to us, Lord of Glory, to be God’s grace and truth in our lives.

**C: We confess what is false in our souls and devoid of your divine light.** (*Silent confession....*)

P: All who receive Christ Jesus and believe in his name have the right to become the children of God. Go in peace. Your sins are forgiven at Christ’s cross and in his name. C: Amen.

KYRIE (*Spoken*)

P: For the peace of the world. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the unity of the church. **C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: For the salvation of all people. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Hall Family (*Sit*)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Advent Song + Lighting of Joy Candle (*Tune: ‘Hark, the Glad Sound’*)

**Kindle the flame of joy this day, may it burn bright and true.**

**The Spirit of God his power impart and ev’ry heart make new.**

Come, Lord Jesus, joy of the world. You call us to faithfulness as the Faithful One of God. Give us the joy of your salvation that we may shine forth your divine light; **All glory and honor belong to you for you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

EPISTLE READING - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (*See below*)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE - MELISSA OSTEEN

ADVENT GOSPEL VERSE (*Stand, Sung; Tune: Let Our Gladness Have No End*)

**Let our gladness have no end, Alleluia! For to earth did Christ descend, Alleluia!  
Christ our Lord so mild and meek, Alleluia! He the Word of God now speaks, Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - John 1:6-18 (*Spoken*)

**C: Glory to you, O Lord / C: Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON (*Sit*)

HYMN OF THE DAY "Softly and Tenderly" (*Stand, Sung*)

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me;  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Refrain**

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? Refrain**

**Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;  
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me. Refrain**

**O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Refrain**

*Refrain: Come home, come home; you who are weary come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!*

APOSTLES' CREED (*Spoken*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 CHURCH

OFFERTORY (*Stand, Sung; Tune: What Child is This*)

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

OFFERING PRAYER (*Spoken*)

**C: We offer, Father, our gifts and praise, a joyful return for the gift of your Son. Amen**

COMMUNION DIALOG (*Sung; Tune: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*)

P: The Lord God be with you. **C: And with you, His servant.**

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord. **C: With hearts uplifted, thanks to Him we render, With joy we come before Him, In gratefulness implore Him, With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!**

P: Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, Almighty Creator, Merciful Lord, God of Promise and Fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS (*Sung; Tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored! Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name! Hail hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh, In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing. Hail, Hosanna! Praises due, Be forever, Lord to you!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION + LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT (*Sit*)

POST COMMUNION HYMN (*Stand, Sung; Tune: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*)

**For perfect love so freely spent, For fellowship restored, We celebrate your sacrament And sing your praise, O Lord. Abide with us; in all our ways Your saving love be shown; So may our lives be hymns of praise, O Christ, to you alone.**

DISMISSAL PRAYER (*Spoken*)

P: Send us forth into your Father's world, O Lord of Glory, and let the love and unity of your table find a place in our hearts and homes. **Make us ever your humble stewards of saving grace. Amen**

DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

P: Go forth and tell the good news! **C: Christ has come. Christ has risen. Christ shall come again!**

P: May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit abide with you until that day. **C: Amen**

SENDING HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" (*Sung; Insert*)

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration For your Gospel's joyful sound, May the fruits of your salvation, In our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, ever faithful To your truth may we be found.**

**Savior, when your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way, Let no fear of death appall us, Glad your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever Reign with you in endless day.**

MUSICAL POSTLUDE - KAREN HALL

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Loving God + Living the Word + Serving Others + Sharing Christ**

**First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11**

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**Gospel: John 1:6-18**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.