



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ORDER OF CONFESSION

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.** *Breathe*

God of the wayward, **we have strayed from your paths and sought control of our circumstances.** *Breathe*

God of justice, **we prepare for war instead of peace, favoring anger over compassion.** *Breathe*

God of relationship, **we dishonor one another to feel better about ourselves.** *Breathe*

God of ingenuity, **we make our lives comfortable at the expense of your creation.** *Breathe*

**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.

You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

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

PRAYER

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from 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.

FIRST READING | Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as 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!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From 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.
⁵You 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.
⁶We 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.
⁷There 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.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹ on the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and ¹ come to help us.**
³Restore ¹ us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD ¹ God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your ¹ people pray? R**
⁵You have fed them with the ¹ bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹ tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision ¹ of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh ¹ us to scorn.**
⁷Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at ¹ your right hand,
the one you have made so strong ¹ for yourself. R**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a-¹ way from you;
give us life, that we may call up-¹ on your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD¹ God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we¹ shall be saved. R

GOSPEL READING | Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then 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.

²⁸“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. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It 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. ³⁵Therefore, 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, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE |

Rev. Jim Muratore

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- **Are you awake? Are you sure?**
- **How does this passage sit with you? Does it stir readiness or anxiety?**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 in the Holy Land and in Ukraine, 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. We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Rosha and Ron, Buddy, Luke and Melissa, Noah, Landis, Trish, Roman, Kristen, Pam, Jim, Quinn, Charles, Joe, Marie, Katie, Doug, Hannah, and for all whom we name now.... 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 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.**

OFFERING

Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org. You can also sign up for automated giving.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION

The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of seven lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are: [P] The Lord is here; [A] God's Spir - it is with us; [P] Let us lift up our hearts; [A] We lift them to our God; [P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God; [A] It is right to give our thanks and praise. The score includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests. A 3/4 time signature change is indicated at the beginning of the final line of music.

[P] The Lord is here

[A] God's Spir - it is with us

[P] Let us lift up our hearts

[A] We lift them to our God

[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, o God, our Father and Mother,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Breathe your Spirit on us, O God, and saturate these gifts of bread and wine in the presence of Christ, that as we await his return, we may grow to love one another. Let us be nourished by this sacrament, this visible sign of your + invisible grace, to live in your abundance.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

And so we have this meal: simplicity and mystery bound together. Though we cannot fully comprehend its meaning, we share, we remember, and we trust in the promise of Christ's life, death, and resurrection which renew the face of the earth.

Blessed be God forever!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECORATING THIS WEEK

We'll take stock of decorations after service today!

CHRISTMAS MARKET | December 23rd Noon-5pm

We'll be hosting upwards of 40 artist and vendors for the returning Christmas Market. See some beautiful craftsmanship and support small businesses this holiday season.

BALTIMORE MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT & CAROLING NIGHT | Fri. Dec. 8th 7pm

The BALTIMORE MEN'S CHORUS returns for our annual event! Bring your favorite homemade or store bought cookies to share and canned goods to donate to the Hampden Food Pantry. The concert begins at 7pm followed by caroling down the Avenue and to the lights on 34th Street. Bring friends and family for a wonderful celebration together!

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER in ADVENT | Thursdays, Dec. 7- 21, 7:30pm

During the season of Advent we gather in the evening for prayer in preparation for Christmas. The roughly 30 minute candlelit service is a peaceful way to enter the season in community.

THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Saturdays 11am-4pm

Contact Cheryl Conrad if you would be interested in helping run the thrift shop!

THANK YOU for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry together. You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuechampden.org>.

BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

SENDING SONG | Prepare the Royal Highway

No. 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

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