



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Christ the King

November 20, 2022

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving God, we have turned against you.

By our thoughts, words, and deeds, we have broken our relationship with you and with each other. *Breathe*

Gracious God, when you showed us love, we have thought and spoken poorly of our neighbors. *Breathe*

God of Abundance, when you provided for our needs, we ignored the needs of others and often justified our wants. *Breathe*

Consoling God, when you said “do not be afraid,” we allowed fear to fester, giving birth to anger and hatred of the other. *Breathe*

Empowering God, when you made us caretakers of the earth, we hurt your creation with our greed and selfishness. *Breathe*

Merciful God, often we do not recognize our own sinfulness though we are quick to point out the sinfulness of others; *Breathe*

God of Compassion, at times, we believe we are unforgiveable and we do not trust in the capacity of your Spirit. *Breathe*

Redeeming God, **Forgive us, transform us, empower us by your grace. Amen.**

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN | Gather Us In

No. 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING | Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

PSALM 46

¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
²**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
⁶**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**

God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R

⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,**

what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;**

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”

¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

GOSPEL READING | Luke 23:33-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

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

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

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

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- What part of today's texts resonated with you?
- Jesus' desire to forgive those who harmed him complicates our approach to justice. How does Jesus' words challenge you?
- What qualities do you look for or what qualities are you drawn to in leaders?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries and increase our work for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction. Guide us in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals here in the Chesapeake Watershed, along the Jones Falls Rivers. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world. Instill in every leader's heart a desire for justice and peace. Support the work of international collaborations that seek the goals of health and joy for all people. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. On this Trans Awareness Week, help our society to recognize the dignity and of our trans siblings created in the image and likeness of God. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your light. Lord, in your mercy,
Receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and for our community, especially Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Ron and Beryl, Zach and Rae, Luke and Melissa, Buddy, Steve, Katie, Roman, Terrance, Angel, Jon, Pam, Jim, Quinn, Charles, Joe, Htet (Tet). Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith especially Winston Waldon. Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord welcome us into your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECORATING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS LATER THIS MONTH

ADVENT VESPERS | Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 7:30pm

Join us for Holden Evening Prayer on Thursday evenings during Advent. The sung service is a peaceful way to slow down during this hectic season, come to sing, or just to be.

CONCERT & CAROLING WITH BALTIMORE MEN'S' CHORUS | FRIDAY, DEC. 2nd, 7pm

The Baltimore Men's Chorus returns to St. Luke's to lead us in spreading Christmas Cheer. Join in the festivities, help decorate the church and bring cookies baked holiday goodness to share with our neighbors. Following the Concert portion of the evening, we will light up the church courtyard and carol our down to 34th Street.

THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Saturdays 11am-4pm

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

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS SUPPORT FUND

As we all know, the cost of groceries has been steadily increasing. While they have been able to take advantage of the produce giveaways here at the church, it has still been difficult to stay in budget. You can give to this fund separately from your regular offering through our online giving portal at churchontheavenuehampden.org and by clicking on LVC SUPPORT FUND.

BALTIMORE FOOD RESCUE IS NOW AT ST. LUKE'S | Thursdays, 11:30am

Free produce will be distributed in the courtyard courtesy of the Food Rescue volunteers.

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.churchontheavenuehampden.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.



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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 Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

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