
Worship Service
Sunday November 27, 2016
1ST Sunday of Advent and Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Theme: "Renewed Hope for Christ centered worship"

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING

Gathering Song: "Hope is a Star" Bop #118

Welcome and Sharing of the peace
(We greet each other saying, "**The Peace of Christ be with you**")

Call to Worship

ONE: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

MANY: We are easily distracted by the darkness that comes with unease and anxiety.

ALL: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your renewing hope.

Solo "Emmanuel"

Prayer of Adoration

**Almighty and everlasting One,
You break into our world in ways that are loving and transforming:
In a tired and violent world, you are peace and you are hope.
In a hectic and busy world, you are calm and you are rest.
In a harsh and unforgiving world, you are tenderness and you are mercy.
In a cold and dark world, you are comfort and you are light.
And so, we are moved to worship you as the one who created us, the one who redeems us, and the one who guides us, one God, this day, and forever. Amen.**

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Lighting the Advent Candle – Hope

(Heida Family)

Hymn of Assurance: **“Dawning Light of Our Salvation”**

1. Long in darkness Israel wandered;
Long in mortal shadows, we
Walked in bondage and self-pity,
Trod in paths of sin and grief.
In the prophets' words He told us,
Long the God of Israel spoke;
He alone in strength would save us
From the hands of all our foes.

Every valley be exalted!
Every mountain be made plane!
Crooked ways repent and straighten;
All creation bend in praise!

2. He shall raise a mighty Savior;
Born of David's lineage, He
Comes in cov'nant love to claim us
From our sins to set us free.
Light to those who dwell in darkness
Life to those from death who flee
Joy unto the earth, and gladness,
To your pathways dawning peace!

Refrain

3. Jesus, Lord, and mighty Savior,
David's Son and yet his King,
Dawning light of our salvation,
Of your saving pow'r we sing!
Stand, Oh lame, and dance ye broken,
Know the Savior's healing grace;
Come, Oh deaf and hear him singing;
Turn, Oh blind, behold his face!

Refrain

Youth message: "Looking forward"

Youth Hymn: Christ Child's coming

GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

In the law and the prophets, we receive your wisdom and in Jesus Christ we have received the full extent of your love. Open our hearts and minds to what you want to have us hear and learn.

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 122
Romans 13: 11-14

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks, be to God!

Sermon: "God's Appointed Time"

Text: Romans 13: 11-14

The Apostle Paul in Romans 13 invited the church then to contemplate what time meant even as they experienced significant changes in their own lives and Christian journey.

This is what time meant in their context:

καιρὸς is not "the time" abstractly, but the time they lived in with its moral import, its critical place in the working out of God's designs. It is their time regarded as having a character of its own, full of significance for them.

As we contemplate this text on this first Sunday of advent consider three things about TIME as we are led by this text in Romans 13: 11, ***“This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*”**

Firstly, "What time is it in my personal life?"

- Each Christian is called to have a personal relationship with Christ and there is a plan that God has for each person.
- As we live out our lives in Christian witness we must determine what God is saying to each of us and how is God leading and using each of us
- God uses each person in a different way and it all comes together by the guidance of the Holy Spirit for God's glory.
- We cannot give up on ourselves because we become impatient with God. God acts in his own time so we must continue to hope while we wait.

Secondly, "What time is it in God's church?"

- The Church in Rome was experience struggles due to the significant changes to how it was comprised. There was a significant number of Christians from Jewish descent as well as many Gentile Christians.
- The Church in Rome became preoccupied with cultural identity and lost its central focus on Christ and God's redemptive work through Christ.
- The Church in North America has become preoccupied with liberalism and a zest to please all and sundry and thus have lost its focus.
- It is high time the church get back to the fundamentals of the faith; those fundamental principles that drove the reformers. These fundamental principles are the five solas: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture alone, Christ Alone, For God's Glory Alone.
- The TIME is near for us to get back to the central message of salvation by Faith in Jesus Christ.
- The church cannot lose hope as it is the through the church that people are led to hope for a better and brighter day.

Thirdly, "What time is it in God's world?"

- The world is going through so much anxiety and many are worried about hatred and mistrust that exist among nations and cultures of the world.

-
- It is time for us as God's people to get on our knees and connect with God in hope and prayer. "Tis the blessed hour of prayer."
 - May our hope be renewed through the coming of Jesus into our lives as God holds sway in our lives, in the church and in the world. Amen.

Prayers of God's People

WE CELEBRATE AT THE TABLE WITH ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

Hymn of Transition: **"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"** Bop # 115

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

The Invitation:

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.
People will come from north, south, east and west
And sit at table in the Kingdom of God.

When our Risen Lord sat at table with his disciples, his friends –
He took the bread and broke it and gave it to them
And their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

Come and see that God is here among us.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
All are welcome at this table.

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ through the ancient words of the
The Apostles Creed (Bop # 539 or Back of the Psalter)

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving: **Bop # 564**

The Lord be with you;
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Let us Pray

In the beginning, you spoke and at your word your Spirit moved over the waters, bringing order, light, and life out of chaos. By your hands, you formed our bodies and knit together our inward in your image and breathed breath and life into us. When we turn away from you and our love fails, your love remains constant. You lead us through the deep and chaotic waters and you call us from our scattered lives to unity and peace.

Therefore, we join with choirs of angels and archangels and with the whole creation, to lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**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.

Holy, mighty and tender God, in time you sent Jesus of Nazareth and in him we saw your promises made flesh. Dwelling among us good news was seen and heard and our world transformed. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. In his suffering, death and resurrection, he delivered us from sin and darkness and revealed a living and redeeming hope for all people. And when he ascended into heaven, your Holy Spirit came to be our Counsellor and Comforter.

And so, remembering Christ's life, love, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ was promised.

Christ was born.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we share may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, world without end.

As Christ taught his disciples we now pray together:

**Our Father.....
Amen.**

Institution of the Bread and Wine

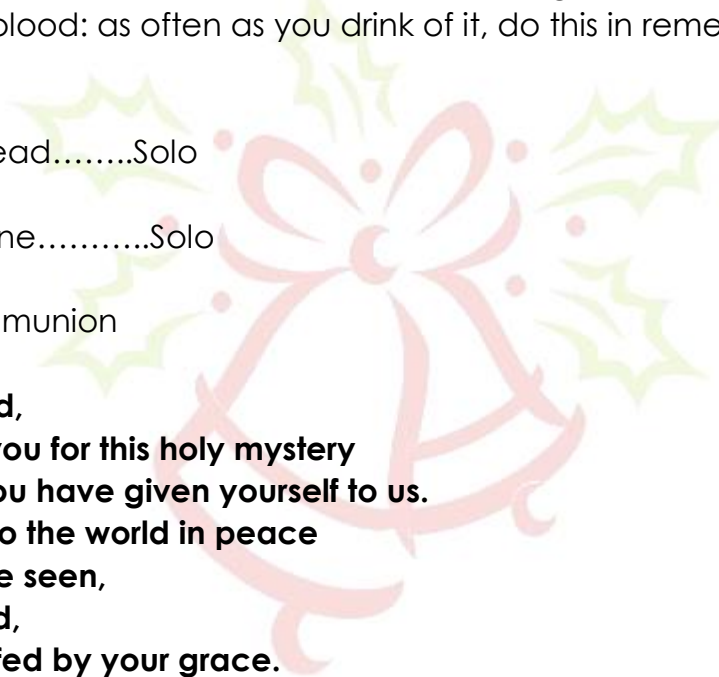
Jesus, in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you: this do in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood: as often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.'

Sharing of the Bread.....Solo

Sharing of the Wine.....Solo

Prayer after Communion



**Eternal God,
we thank you for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Send us into the world in peace
for we have seen,
have heard,
and been fed by your grace.
Keep us faithful and alert
for signs of Christ's coming
and lead us to live lives marked by truth and light,
so that we may eat and drink together
in your eternal dominion of hope, peace, joy and love.
Amen.**

WE BRING OUR GIFTS

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

Sung Response: **“Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”** BoP#79

WE LEAVE TO CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

The Benediction

Recessional Hymn: Here O my Lord, I see thee (vs 1,4,5,7) #543

