

Worship on November 28, 2021 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Adele Samuel)

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Light the Candle (Peace) BOP 119 – Hope is Star (Verse 2)
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 110 – Come, thou long-expected Jesus
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12
- Sermon: Advent 2 – Gift for Baby Jesus
- The Prayer for the People of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 118 – Hark the glad sound

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us. This is Sunday, December 5th, 2021. This is the Second Sunday of Advent. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Luke 2:14) May the presence of God be with all of us as we worship God this time.

. There will be Christmas Eve service at church. So, plan to join the special celebration of the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ.

. Thank you for your support with your gifts. As we give our offering to the Lord, let us offer up our whole lives and our hearts.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Lighting up the Advent Candle Hope Is A Star (BOP#119)

Vs. 2: Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth Giving a promise of safety and worth

When God is a child there's joy in our song The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong

And none shall be afraid

Advent Call to Worship

One: Peace is the light that sheds understanding.

All: Peace is the promise of God.

One: Peace is found when God's order and justice are brought to the world.

All: We await the birth of the Prince of Peace.

One: Let us pray:

All: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your everlasting peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Praise song – BOP 110 – Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Vs. 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus Born to set thy people free From our fears and sins release us Let us find our rest in thee	Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art Dear desire of every nation Joy of every longing heart
Vs. 2 Born thy people to deliver Born a child and yet a king Born to reign in us forever now thy gracious kingdom bring	By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone By thine all sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of peace and promise,
you are the giver of life, living in us through the power of your Holy Spirit.
You are the voice that calls us from our wandering,
setting us on a new path.
You are the living water that purifies us,
baptising us for service in the world that so badly needs your love.
Refresh us in this time of worship,
and reignite our desire to serve you each and every day.
Glory, honour and praise be yours now and always,
Holy One, Holy Three,
One God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

Merciful God,
our baptism proclaims the washing away of our sin
and the start of our new life in Christ.
But we confess that we still live in sin.
We sin against you and one another,
in what we do and in what we fail to do.
We excuse ourselves,
and take comfort in familiar habits and traditions.
Forgive us when we mistake such comfort for the peace you offer us in Christ Jesus.
Prepare our hearts to embrace new ways of following him.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

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. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, proclaimed this hope: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, giving light to those in darkness, guiding our feet in the way of peace." Receive God's tender mercy today. Trust that God's peace will prevail for all those who seek forgiveness in Jesus' name.

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy God, through your scriptures,
You have revealed your Word in scripture to your people across many generations.
In the fullness of time, you revealed your Living Word in Jesus Christ.
Now, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
open our minds and hearts to you,
so that we find new ways to follow you faithfully in this generation. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."
9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

SERMON: Gifts for Baby Jesus

Title: Advent 1 – Gifts for Baby Jesus

Today's title is "Gifts for Baby Jesus."

Three wise men saw a star. They thought that this star would lead them to the baby who was to be the king of the Jews. They followed the star so that they could give their worship to the newborn baby king. When they enter the territory of Judea, King Herod called them and asked why they came.

They told King Herod that they followed the star in order to worship the newborn King.

King Herod was not happy to learn about the baby who was to be the new king. So he told the wisemen to let him know where the newborn king was, thinking that he would kill him.

In dream of the wisemen, God told them not to return to Herod, so they went back home taking different path, so that King Herod could not hurt Baby Jesus.

This is today's story. In here, God miraculously protected his own Son Jesus. It is an amazing event, but we are going to focus on three gifts that wisemen brought to newborn baby King, Jesus.

Joseph and Mary, the parents of Jesus, could not find a room, so they had to stay in a barn. That night, Mary had a labour pain. Here? In barn? Surrounded by animals? Oh no.. But, no choice. Baby did not wait... for the better timing, or better place. Mary had a baby that night, in a barn, surrounded by animals.

At that same time, the three wisemen was following the star. The star stopped right above the barn where the young couple, Mary and Joseph, stayed with their newborn baby, Jesus. The wisemen were very excited to offer their sincere worship to the newborn King.

But, Mary and Joseph were not able to find a good place to lay their newborn baby. **The best thing they could use was the manger.** The three wisemen came in to the barn and they knelt down before the baby who was put down in a manger. They each brought the present for Baby Jesus.

The first wiseman brought gold. Gold. To a newborn baby? To the poor young couple's baby? Their background did not matter to the wiseman. Prophet Isaiah said:
6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Newborn king according to Isaiah's prophecy. The star taught them the newborn king baby, so Jesus is to be the King. This gift of gold teaches us the kingship of baby Jesus.

The second wiseman brought Frankincense. This is usually used for burial. **Mark 16:1, "When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him."** This is after Jesus' crucifixion. These women came to the tomb of Jesus to wash his dead body and put Frankincense, or spice, to bury Jesus properly.

Wait a moment. We are talking about newborn baby Jesus. But, this second wiseman brought Frankincense! The spice used for dead body?

This implies death. On the DAY ONE, Jesus was received a spice for burial as a gift. This teaches us what kind of death Jesus would face. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb. He was born to die for us. Everyone dies. But, we are not here to die. We have different purposes of our lives. But, the purpose of Jesus' birth was to die. This Frankincense tells us the purpose of Jesus' birth.

The third wiseman brought Myrrh. This is very similar to frankincense. Also, it teaches us the death of Jesus.

So, on the day of his birth, Jesus clearly teaches us the meaning of his coming to the world. **First, he came to be king.** That is why three wisemen worshipped the baby Jesus who was born between poor couple. They did not care about the background of Mary and Joseph. Whoever they were, the wisemen treated baby Jesus as the Highest king. They gave their sincere worship to the newborn baby, King Jesus.

At the same time, they prepared frankincense and myrrh which were used for burial. The wisemen knew this newborn King was born with a purpose. And **the purpose was to die.**

The theme of the second Sunday of Advent is **PEACE**. Why?

Jesus was born as a King. It means he will be the centre of our hearts. He will reign our lives. Chaotic life will be peaceful when Jesus came to us as our king. Jesus is the Prince of peace.

And, Jesus brought peace between us and God. **The relationship between us and God was totally broken because of our sin.** What can we do to be rescued from the power of sin? We cannot do anything. How can we reach God, overcoming this gulp? We are captured by the power of sin. **That is why Jesus came to us, to save us, to rescue us from the bondage of sin by becoming the bridge between us and God.**

What was worship in the Old Testament? It was killing an animal and sprinkle blood all over as the sign of forgiveness of our sins. Cleansing sin with animal's blood was worship.

What is the heart of it?

Life. **Romans 6:23, "For the wage of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Do we kill any animal when we worship? No. Why not? God already did. God took his one and only **Son Jesus Christ as the sacrificial lamb for us.** Jesus shed his blood to cleanse our sin.

Once for all, Jesus died for the sin of all human being in the past, present, and future.

That is why we call SIN, not sins. Sin as a collective noun. It contains all sins of human from all ages.

The King Jesus brought us peace when we were in chaos.

Romans 5:6, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."

King Jesus came to be king, but, at the same time, Jesus came to die for his own people.

That is us.

Christmas is in 3 weeks. My boys are waiting for Christmas so much, for Christmas present. It is a very excited and happy season for all of us. But, the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, is him being born as our KING and being born to die for us.

Let us remember our true King Jesus and the Prince of peace who reconciled our broken relationship with God.

Let us pray.

Thank you God for your love for us. Because we were powerless, because we were helpless, you had to send your own son Jesus, to us. He had to live in mere human body. The Creator God came into your own creation. And Jesus had to suffer for our sin. By dying on the cross, as the sacrificial lamb, you washed all our sin. You knew why you had to come to the world you created. And you knew what kind of life you had to live. And you knew what kind death you had to face. But, still, you came and you lived, and you died, just for us. Thank you. Let us fill this season of Christmas with Christ. Be glorified and be praised through our lives. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer For the People of God

Precious Jesus. Loving Father God. Again, we are coming to your presence seeking your help and power. We are filled with our own desires. We have too many wants and needs. With your wisdom, guide us as we pray and as we follow your steps in our lives.

Gracious Father God, world crisis. Omicron, the COVID variant. It's stronger and more contagious. And the new COVID cases went over 1000. With the cold weather and variant, there are more potential danger around us.

We were to preparing POST-COVID life, but we need to be prepared now WITH COVID life.

What do you want us to learn from this? What is your will in this?

Difficult and challenging life. Give us wisdom and give us understanding hearts, so with one heart, help us follow you through this hard time.

With Corona virus crisis, there are too many people who are sick cannot have proper access to the medical treatment. Look upon them. Have mercy upon them. And provide more resources, so these people can have proper help they need.

In our congregation, there are people struggling. They have physical pain, relational struggles, emotional hardships, and more life's situations. You are all knowing and all powerful God. Let them be in your presence. With your love, touch them and heal them. Help them with your power. Release them from their pains. Loving Father God, embrace them. Accept them just as they are and let them be free in you.

It is the second Sunday in Advent. We are waiting for your coming. Help us fill this Christmas season with you. Thank you for being with us.

In Jesus' precious and beautiful and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering.

We make our offering today as a sign of our commitment to the reign of Christ among us, trusting that our gifts will accomplish more than we might ever imagine, because God will bless them—and us. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Mighty and Merciful God, we bring our gifts to you, trusting that your blessing will multiply their effects in the world. Use them and us to prepare the way for Christ to enter lives with his compassion and courage, so that the world will know his peace and trust his name. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP#118 Hark the glad sound

Vs. 1 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes The Saviour promised long Let every heart prepare a throne And every voice a song!	Vs. 2 You come the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held The gates of brass before you burst The iron fetters yield
Vs.3 You come the broken heart to bind The wounded soul to cure To bring the treasures of God's grace Good tidings for the poor	Vs. 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim And heaven's eternal arches ring with your most honoured name

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Christ is King who is present in our daily lives. And Christ came to die for us. With his death, he gave us life. He gave us freedom. Let us worship our King all through this week.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.