

Concordia Lutheran Church & St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
The Third Sunday of Advent  
December 13, 2020

Topic: Contemplative Prayer for Advent: Watch, Wait, Wonder, and Worship

Time: Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 4:00 pm

As this is recurring, the link/dial in is the same for all four Sunday afternoons.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84543378082?pwd=UzlQbHZnMFZVL1d1dWJ3dVozdk1RUT09>

Call in:

1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 845 4337 8082

Passcode: 0000

### **Contemplative Prayer for Advent: Watch, Wait, Wonder, and Worship**

*These contemplative Advent liturgies look to the Sunday celebrations to practice prayer in the moods and gestures evoked in this season. In the spirit of “keeping vigil,” the first week centers upon watching for Christ’s coming again. The second week calls us to prayerful waiting in preparation for the coming of Jesus. Drawing upon the idea that “wisdom begins in wonder,” the third week invites us to embrace imaginative wonderment at the things of God. On the fourth week, we, with Mary, sing the Lord’s praises and renew our vision to do God’s will.*

*May your home worship space be filled with semi-darkness. Our contemplation begins by lighting our Advent wreathes. The assembly responds with the lines in bold.*

*We gather in silence.*

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

*Leader:* At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

**People: Open us up to your coming.**

We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God’s promises.

O Emmanuel,

**Open us up to your coming.**

We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear.

O Emmanuel,

**Open us up to your coming.**

Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill us with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

*We light three candles.*

## SUNG RESPONSE: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, stanza 1*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## OPENING

*Leader* Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
*People* **give thanks in all circumstances.**

## PRAYER

Stir up our hearts in wonder, O God. May we wear a mantle of praise as we delight in your gift of salvation, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## PSALM Psalm 126

*Reader* When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

*People* **Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."

**The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

*Silence*

## PSALM PRAYER

Faithful God, like a grain of wheat falling into the earth your Son went into death, so that after three days the earth might bloom with the joy of his rising. Let the seeds of justice, which we plant with tears, bring forth the power of the resurrection in the places of death and despair, and gather us at last into the joyful harvest of the saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The Annunciation* – Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

(sung by soloists)

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary.

The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you.

You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High."

And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

*The Magnificat – Luke 1:46-55*

All:

1., 3. My soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your  
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,  
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er more.

## SCRIPTURE

*We look back upon Sunday, using a scripture reading or portion of a scripture reading from that day.*

Isaiah 61:1-3; 10-11

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<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 provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being 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 with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

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

Here ends the Reading.

## HOMILY

Mary Covello

*Silence*

## MUSIC MEDITATION

Kelly Sharp, pianist

*Borders*, composed and arranged by Jim Brickman

## PRAYERS

*Leader*      Show us your mercy, O God,  
*People*      **And grant us your salvation.**

Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
**And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

Give peace in all the world;  
**For only in you can we live in safety.**

Keep the nations under your care,  
**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;  
**Your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy be forgotten,  
**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**And sustain me with your Holy Spirit.**

Lord, hear my prayer,  
**And let my cry come before you.**

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR MISSION

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

God, whose compassion calls you to be merciful,  
Christ, whose love leads you by grace,  
the Holy Spirit, whose wisdom points you toward hope,  
☩ bless and keep you always. **Amen.**

## HYMN *Creator of the Stars of Night*

- 1 Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
we pray you hear us when we call.
- 2 When this old world drew on toward night,  
you came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child  
of Mary, blessed mother mild.
- 3 At your great name, O Jesus, now  
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
all things on earth with one accord,  
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
- 4 Come in your holy might, we pray,  
redeem us for eternal day;  
defend us while we dwell below  
from all assaults of our dread foe.
- 5 To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally. Amen.

## DISMISSAL

Even as we wait, watch, and wonder,  
**God is with us.**

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