

EXPLORING ADVENT/CHRISTMAS HYMNS THAT SING OF CHRIST & HIS WORD



O SING OF CHRIST

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERIES



O BRIDE OF CHRIST, REJOICE

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

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Katrina Johns, Equipping Coordinator

Direct line: 224-623-0800 or email: katrina@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Diver – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

Elders: Mike Bandman

Comm/Asst. Elder: Randy Gifford

Acolytes: Owen Squires, **Open**

Lay Readers: Nicole Kreamer , Monte Stoltzman

Ushers: Don Heidlauf, Sam Squires

Greeters: John & Karen Kozlik

ADVENT PROPHETS

This service draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent, the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and His Second Advent still to come.

Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

P: "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD.

C: When He will fulfill the promise He made to all of His people.

P: In those days and at that time

the LORD will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.

C: That Branch is a son of David. That Branch is Jesus, the Son of God.

P: The Branch shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C: In those days the LORD's people will be saved
and His Church will dwell securely.**

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

C: The LORD is our righteousness.

P: What does that name mean?

**C: We, His people, are righteous through His righteousness.
We are holy because He makes us holy through His Son.**

P: Let us remember our baptisms,

when the Lord became our righteousness...

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

Opening Hymn

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him-self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spite The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Preparation for God's Word

based on Malachi 3:1-7b

P: "Behold, I send my messenger

and he will prepare the way before me," says the Lord.

C: This is John the Baptist who announced that the Messiah is Jesus.

P: Shall we rejoice that the LORD has sent His messenger,
that the Messiah Jesus has come into our midst?

C: Yes, we shall rejoice; but our sin causes us to fear His coming.

P: The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

**C: But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?**

For he is like a refiner's fire

burning away the worthless material in us.

**He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify us from all our sin.**

P: And the LORD declares to you today

that His mercies are new every morning. He says:

"I the LORD do not change;

therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

From the days of your fathers

you have turned aside from my statutes

and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you,"

says the LORD of hosts.

Your LORD has drawn you back to Himself

through His Son, Jesus.

You have returned to the LORD

through the work of the Holy Spirit.

You have returned and find forgiveness for all of your sins

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

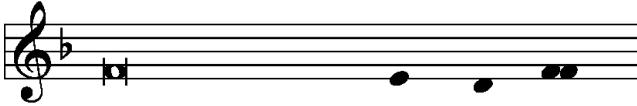
C: Amen.

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

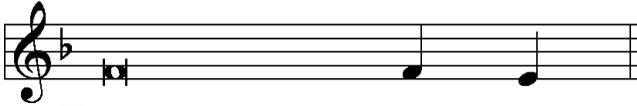
C: The LORD is our righteousness. Amen.

Versicles

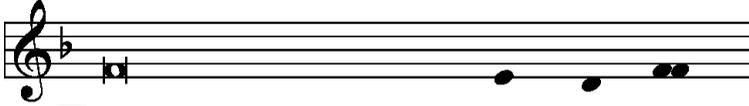
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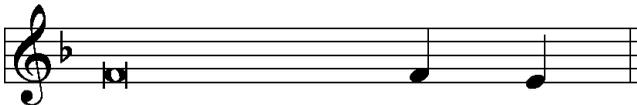
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your Word, You prepare us for the coming of Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Reading from the Revelation to St. John

Revelation 19:1-9 (ESV)

L: ¹After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

C: ***“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,***

L: ²for his judgments are true and just;
for he has judged the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her immorality,
and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

³ [Then] once more they cried out,

C: ***“Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”***

L: ⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, C: ***“Amen. Hallelujah!”***

L: ⁵And from the throne came a voice saying,
“Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

C: ***“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.***

***⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;***

⁸it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—

L: for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

C: ***“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.”***

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

Reading from an Advent Prophet

Zechariah 9:9–12 (ESV)

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1–14 (ESV)

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John [the Baptist] the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

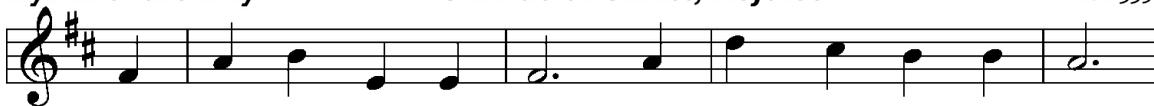
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

⁷[John] said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice
 2 Let shouts of glad - ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.
 3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;
 4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;
 5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.
 Though not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He makes the grave sur - ren - der.
 To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.
 Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.

Refrain



Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

Sermon

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offering Prayer

P: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life. We give You thanks for this day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The day is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Hear us for the sake of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, we ask Your blessings on this congregation, that we may be drawn closer together around Your Word and Sacraments and closer to You as we celebrate the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we ask You to open our eyes to see all who do not yet have reason to celebrate this season of joy. Many do not know Your love in Christ. Enable us to see those in our midst who are hurting that we might be used by You to touch and change their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: When many will be experiencing great amount of stress, bring peace, O Lord, and unity and comfort that we may be prepared to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in joy, not weariness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We pray, O Father, for the elderly in our midst, the homebound and hospitalized, that during this season we may be aware of their need for companionship and fellowship. Move us, O Lord, to make time for those who have been a blessing to us over the years. Use us, O Lord, to be a blessing to them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we entrust all for whom we pray to Your mercy, asking You to hear us for Jesus' sake.

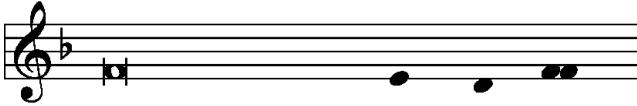
C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

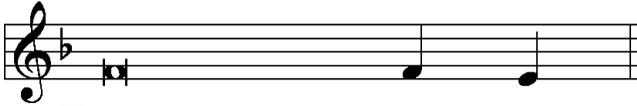
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Versicles

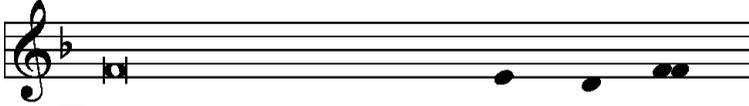
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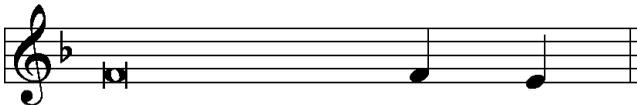
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C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Benediction

based on Micah 5:2-5a

P: Jesus shall stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And you, His flock, shall dwell secure,
for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.
And He shall be your peace.
The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and always watch over you.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Exploratory Explore God Groups *Exploring the Series and Considering Being Hosts for Discussions*

Wednesdays after Advent Worship

Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, & 19

7:35-8:45PM

OR

Sundays during the Education Hour (hosted by Katrina Johns)

December 2, 9, 16 & 23

9:30-10:30AM

These training sessions will give you a taste of what the series discussions will be like but also help you to imagine what it would mean to host your own discussion. Attend with imagination: how could God use you in this series? Please attend the sessions that work for your schedule. The Wednesday/Sunday sessions are designed to be interchangeable so you could pick up all 4 weeks.

These groups will:

- *Walk through a selection of the weeks of the series*
- *Discuss the questions*
- *Share our thoughts as participants*
- *Talk about how we might invite friends and neighbors into a group*
- *Explore what it means to host a group*

For more information on Explore God or the Training Groups, please contact Katrina Johns, Equipping Coordinator, katrina@bethelgurnee.org.