

# Advent Midweek Worship Series

Pairing Scripture with  
poems by Tanner Olson

**TONIGHT:**  
**James 5 &**  
**“99 Cent Mango”**

**Wednesday**  
**December 7**  
**2022**

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## **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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## A LITURGY OF DOUBT AND HOPE

Worship in a traditional order drawing on along with words of doubt and hope  
from Scripture, poets, and writers.

### Opening Hymn

### Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt



**Invocation**

Jude 1-2,20-22,25

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

C: **To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

P: We come to be built up in our most holy faith, building one another up through the Word of God. God the Father calls on us to have compassion on one another:

C: **“Have mercy on those who doubt.”**

P: God the Son calls on us to support one another as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life:

C: **Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy. Amen.**

**Confession of Sins**

Based on “Emmanuel” by Aaron Niequist

P: Can we just admit together that we’re not fine?

C: **Because I’m not fine, and you’re not fine.**

P: Can we just admit together that we’re afraid?

C: **Because I’m afraid, and you’re afraid.**

P: Can we just admit together that we have doubts?

C: **Because I have doubts, and you have doubts.**

P: Can we just admit together that we’re not free?

C: **Because I’m not free, and I want to be.**

P: If you’re not free, then call out to God with me:

C: **Emmanuel,  
God with us today,  
We humbly call out Your Name:  
Emmanuel,  
As near as our need,  
As close as the air that we breathe,  
Emmanuel.  
Lord, have mercy.**

P: Can we just admit together that we have failed?

**C: *Because I have failed, and you have failed.***

P: Can we just admit that our hands aren't clean?

**C: *And our hearts aren't clean, and they'll never be.***

P: Until we're freed, and mercy sings.

**C: *Emmanuel,***

***God with us today,***

***We desperately cling to Your Name:***

***Emmanuel,***

***As near as our need,***

***As close as the air that we breathe.***

***Emmanuel.***

***Lord, have mercy. Amen.***

### ***Absolution (Forgiveness)***

*Based on liturgy by Bernie Seter and "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist*

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners,  
... I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: *Amen.***

***Emmanuel,***

***God with us today,***

***In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:***

***Emmanuel,***

***Who came near so we are freed,***

***As close as the Word that we hear.***

***Emmanuel.***

***The Lord has had mercy on us.***

P: Now we can admit together that we've failed,

**C: *Because I am forgiven, and you are forgiven.***

P: Now we can admit together that our hands aren't clean,

**C: *Because Jesus made me clean, and He made you clean.***

P: If you're now free, then call out to God with me:

**C: *Emmanuel,***

***God with us today,***

***In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:***

***Emmanuel.***

***The Lord has had mercy on us. Amen.***

**Hymn of Response**

**Savior of the Nations, Come**

LSB 332, sts. 6,8

6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the  
8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the  
vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole  
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be  
All our ills of flesh and soul.  
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

**Reading Paired with Tonight's Poem**

**James 5:7-11 (ESV)**

(See Handout)

**Tonight's Poem by Tanner Olson**

(See Handout)

**Another Version of the Reading**

**James 5:7-11 (The Message)**

<sup>7-8</sup> Meanwhile, friends, wait patiently for the Master's Arrival. You see farmers do this all the time, waiting for their valuable crops to mature, patiently letting the rain do its slow but sure work. Be patient like that. Stay steady and strong. The Master could arrive at any time.

<sup>9</sup> Friends, don't complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner.

<sup>10-11</sup> Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You've heard, of course, of Job's staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That's because God cares, cares right down to the last detail.

**Prayer of the Day adapted from Tanner Olson's "Your Patience, O God"**

P: Father, draw us closer than before / for there is a wildfire of fear / chasing after our hope. / Go ahead of us as You have always done. / Step close to our weariness and do as only You do: / bring light to our darkness. / Keep us wrapped in the mystery of grace as we / stumble through this gift of life. / Just like You've been before, / won't You be patience with us? / We know You know we need it. / God, we need You. In the Name of Jesus, **C: Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day**

**All Earth is Hopeful**

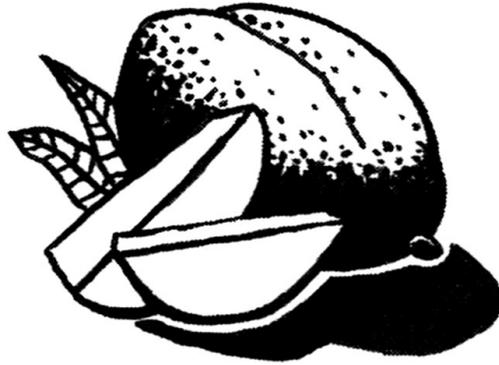
TFBF #47

1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!  
2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:  
3 Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared;  
4 We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.

Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the  
"A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-  
new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most  
This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our

la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-  
here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All  
world; he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our

God's trust and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.  
stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth.  
clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.



***Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed)***

First Nations Version

Our Father and Creator, the One Above Us All,

made all things in the world above and the earth below.

Jesus, his special born Son,

was fathered by the Holy Spirit

and was born into this world through a virgin named Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, a ruler of the Roman people,

who had him nailed to a tree pole, the cross, where he bled to death.

He was buried and then went down to the world of the dead.

On the third day he came back to life, never to die again.

He returned to his Father in the world above

and sat down at his powerful right hand.

One day he will return to this earth to make the final decision

about the eternity of the living and the dead.

After he went to the world above,

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us from the Father,

to live in and through us.

There is only one holy and world-wide group of believers in Jesus

—a Sacred Family called his Church.

All of the Holy Spirit's holy people sit together equally in this Family

and share his Sacred Food at his table.

He has forgiven us and set us free from all of our broken ways,

and all who trust in him, even though they cross over to death,

will be brought back to life again,

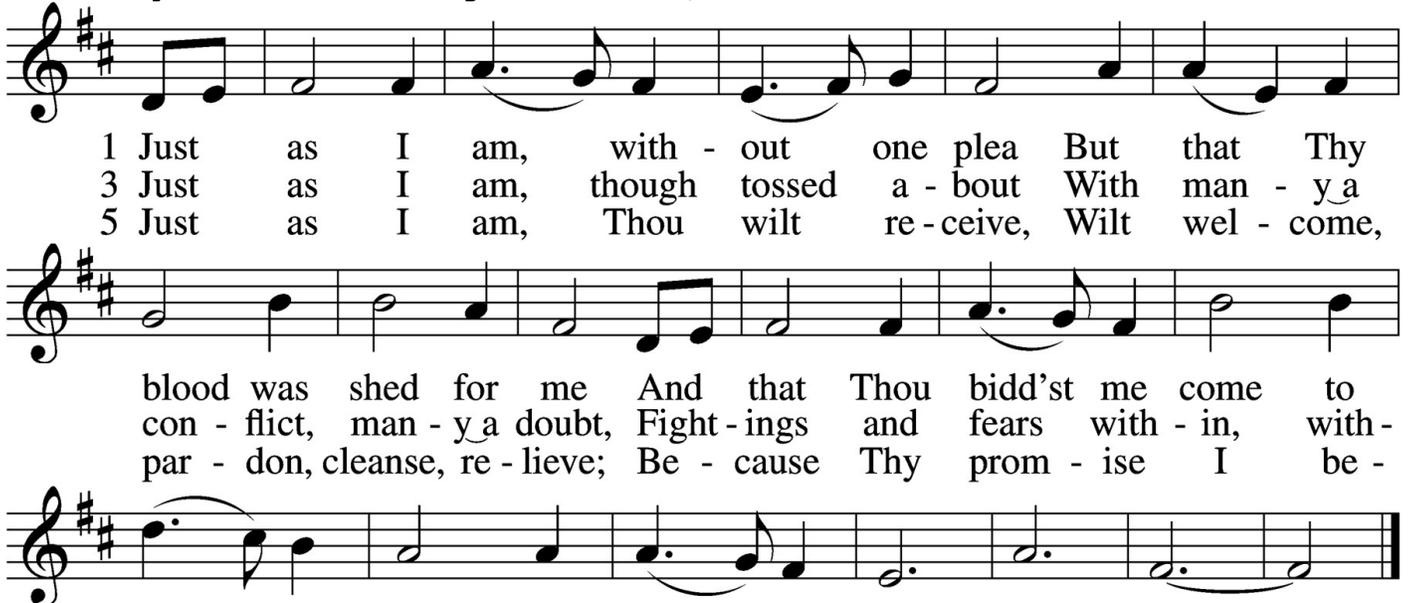
to a life that will never end. Amen.

## Offering

### Offertory

### *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

LSB 570, sts. 1,3,5



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
5 Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come,  
blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be -  
Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

### **Prayers of the Church**

based on Langston Hughes' poem "Prayer [2]"

P: Gather up in the arms of your mercy

C: **The sick, the depraved**

**The desperate, the tired,**

P: All the scum of our weary city. Gather up

C: **In the arms of your mercy.**

P: Gather up

C: **In the arms of your love—**

P: Those who expect

C: **No love from above.**

P: For them—for us—

C: **We pray now.**

Pastor then offers the Prayers of the Church.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

\* Jesus reached out to people considered by others to be "scum". We reach out to all people. And we ourselves may even feel like "scum" sometimes. But look at how God responds with love.

## **Benediction (Blessing)**

Colossians 1:19-20

P: God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus Christ, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. You are reconciled to God the Father, through the work of God the Son, and kept in this faith by God the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

## **Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring**

LSB 353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt

## **Announcements**

# **Bernie's Blessing Coat, Glove, Hat & Shoe Drive**

We are collecting coats, gloves, warm hats and men's shoes for Bernie to distribute on the streets of Chicago on Christmas Eve. For over 24 years the people of Bethel have donated many, many coats that are given to the homeless who are out in the cold and bad weather. As the weather turns cold and you realize a new coat would be nice, bring the old one for Bernie's blessings. Or, if you see a good deal on a new coat, we will gladly accept the new coat, too. This year, warm gloves, warm hats and men's shoes of all kinds will also be accepted.

Starting now and until December 18th, items donated can be dropped off with the Bethel office during office hours or before/after any worship service. Contact the Bethel office at 847-244-9647 with any questions or to arrange your drop-off.

## **BETHEL RESOURCE SHELVES**

Are you searching for the perfect gift for someone this Christmas? Visit the Bethel resource book shelves! There are a selection of books in the hallway to the sanctuary for you to take home and keep. If you would like to help offset the cost, there is an envelope in each book with a suggested donation.

Our Wednesday night Advent series features the poems of Tanner Olson. We have added copies of Tanner Olson's book of poetry to the resource shelves. Contact the church office at 847-244-9647 with any questions.

# UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 4PM



## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 6:30PM

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 10AM

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 10AM

### Acknowledgements

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Monday, December 5

Monday, December 12

Monday, December 19

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