

WORSHIPPING GOD

November 28, 2021

“Close to Home”

First Sunday of Advent

**We invite those who are able to stand*

Welcoming Music

Chiming of the Trinity

*Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God,
alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.*

Call to Worship.....Font of Every Blessing.....arr. Lloyd Larson
CBC Ensemble

Invitation to Worship.....Dan Koger

*Hymn #176.....Lift Up Your Head O Mighty Gates
Led by the CBC Ensemble

*Lift up your heads, O mighty gates: behold, the king of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near, the savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart: make it a temple set apart
From earthly use of heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you: here Lord abide!
Let me your inner presence feel: your grace and love in me reveal.*

*So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.*

*Passing of the Peace.....Kim Miller
May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Old Testament Lesson (Jeremiah 33, pew bible p. 606).....Ron Ocheltree
The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

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

Christmas Doxology (sung to the tune of “O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree”)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.

Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

Lighting the Candles of Advent – the Candle of Hope.....Becky Levesque and Leslie Koger

We hope for a world where all are fed.
We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.
We hope for a world with wide open doors.
We hope for a world with contagious laughter.
We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.
We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.
We hope for that world.
We long for that world.
We are homesick for that world.
So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.
May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.
We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.

Congregational Response – “We Lift the Light of Hope”

We lift the light of hope, O God,
Your presence burning bright.
In praise we sing the gift You bring;
Our hope complete in Christ.
In praise we sing the gift You bring;
Our hope complete in Christ.

New Testament Reading (Luke 21, pew bible pp. 803-804).....Starr Oliver

“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God’s kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

“Take care that your hearts aren’t dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don’t let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”

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

Anthem.....Is Your Heart Prepared for a King.....Robert Lau
CBC Ensemble

Morning Prayer.....Kim Miller

Hymn #153.....Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Led by the CBC Ensemble

*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 though art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

*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.*

Sermon.....“Homesick”Dan Koger

*Hymn #183.....Once in Royal David's City
Led by the CBC Ensemble

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from Heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness,*

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in Heaven above:
And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.*

*Sending and Blessing.....Dan Koger

*Choral Response..... “Prince of Peace”

*Make our hearts your throne, Prince of Peace.
Make our lives your own, Prince of Peace.
May our joy increase and our striving cease,
as we rest in you, Prince of Peace.*

*Postlude.....Emmanuel.....Bethany K. Smith
Tim Price, Organ

**The Flowers in the sanctuary today are dedicated to the glory of God in loving memory of
Connie and Bill Rogers, Carrie Webster, and Carroll Overton by Jim and Peggy Overton.**