

Order of Worship for the First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021, 8:30 am

You are invited to speak the words in *bold*. + Please stand as you are able.

Musicians

Joline Bastounes, Piano • Mary Elliott, Cantor

Prelude

I Am Loved

words by Gloria and William J Gaither

music by William Gaither, arranged by John Innes

Welcome

with Pastor Jeremiah

+ Call to Worship

with Pastor Jeremiah

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

*We are homesick for a just world,
for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.*

Yes, we are homesick-
*for joy that is contagious,
for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for hospitals that run empty.*
We are homesick, but we are on our way.
*God is here. God is still creating.
Let us worship Holy God*

+ Opening Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

United Methodist Hymnal #715, verses 1, 3 & 4

Verse 1

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Verse 3

His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of earth and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Verse 4

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

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Call to Confession

with Pastor Hannah

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

We find ourselves with two options every day—
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind,
or to allow cynicism to win.

Do we hope against hope,
or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world,
or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.

Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt
instead of using it to fuel a better world.

Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

with Pastor Hannah

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even
when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us.
We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to
God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can

*separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are
forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God!
Amen.*

Candle Lighting

The Mesarch family

A: We hope for a world where all are fed.

B: We hope for a world with more
bridges than walls.

A: We hope for a world with wide open doors.

B: We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

A: We hope for a world where trees grow tall
and creeks run clean.

B: We hope for a world where all people feel at
home—in their bodies, in the church, in their
physical homes.

A: We hope for that world.

B: We long for that world.

A: We are homesick for that world.

B: So today we light the candle of hope, because
hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

A: May this light be a reminder that the wait is
always worth it.

B: We are close to home.

May we carry hope with us. Amen.

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Song

Where Children Belong

The Faith We Sing #2233

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This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's Word,
bread and cup, prayer, and song:
this is where children belong.

Time for Young Disciples

with Beth Hagemeyer

Scripture

with Ollie Taylor

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Song of Preparation

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

United Methodist Hymnal #206, verses 1 & 2

Verse 1

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

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Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Verse 2

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

Sermon

Homesick

with Pastor Jeremiah

Hymn of Response

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
United Methodist Hymnal #196

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Prairie Prayer Partners

Elgin Cornerstone

& Lord's Prayer

with Pastor Hannah

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

Offering Invitation

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with Pastor Hannah

Offertory

○ Divine Redeemer

by Charles Gounod

Public Domain

+ Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

United Methodist Hymnal #94

Adaptation © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Announcements

with Pastor Hannah

+ Hymn of Sending Forth

Soon and Very Soon

United Methodist Hymnal #706

Verse 1

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King. [x3]
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Verse 2

No more dying there, we are going to see the King. [x3]
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Verse 3

No more crying there, we are going to see the King. [x3]
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

+ Benediction

with Pastor Jeremiah

Postlude Sing Along

Jesus Loves Me

United Methodist Hymnal #191, verse 1

Verse 1

Jesus loves me!

This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak but he is strong.

Chorus

Yes, Jesus loves me! [x3]
The Bible tells me so!