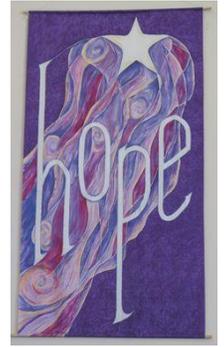


Virtual Worship Service for the First Sunday of Advent
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
Sunday, November 29, 2020



Welcome and Announcements: (included as a separate attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

***Call to Worship:**

God spoke through the prophet Isaiah,

“Comfort, O comfort, my people.”

A voice cries out,

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

Every valley will be lifted up, every mountain brought low,

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed.

All people shall witness this together,

For the mouth of God has spoken.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel;

We wait for you to enter our world and our lives in a new way.

Eric Sowder

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope:

Ashlyn DeWitt



If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... to make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

Prayer for the Advent Journey

Rev. Kathy Campbell

God of life and promise,
in a season of waning days and deepening dark,
we thank you for the gift of watchful anticipation,
in which we wait for the return of the sun.

We have known despair of expecting nothing,
when winter’s bleakness cannot imagine spring,
and night blinds us to the promise of morning.

We long for Christ’s coming to renew creation,
yet scarcely trust the power of God-with-us
to transform the only life that is ours.

We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief.

Help us to wait as Mary did,
a vessel of the Light of the world.

Help us to trust in your holy intention
to bring forth fullness of life in us and in our world.
Strengthen our compassion in this Advent season
that we may care for others,
family, friends, strangers, and even our enemies.

Help us feel your presence and know your power
as you prepare the way in a troubled world
for the birthing of your Spirit
again and again and again.
In the name of Christ, for whom we wait
with longing and hope. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise # 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Text: Latin prose, pre-9th century; Music: Plainsong adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1852

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

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits with thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.**

Call to Confession:

We try to stay faithful but fail. We long to care for others but end up focusing on us. We think we are being safe but know how often we live dangerously. Yet, God knows our foolishness, and forgives our mistakes, so we can be made new people.

Responsive Prayer of Confession:

Come,
God-who-draws-near-to-us,
for we live in fretful times,
wondering if we will ever come out of them.

Come to us, with your grace.

Come,
God-who-has-walked-these-roads,
for we long to be faithful in these days,
but find it all too easy to be seduced by worry.

Come to us, with your hope.

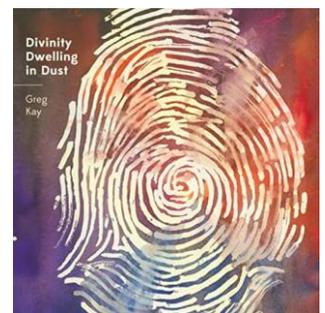
Come,
God-who-carries-life-in-your-breath,
for we try to stay apart for others and ourselves,
but find it easy to judge to those who
mock us for being so foolish.

Come to us, with your love.

Word of Flesh:

have mercy;

Rev. Maggie Lauterer



Daniel Coffey

Friend of the poor:

have mercy;

Bridegroom of the faithful:

have mercy.

(moment of silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon:

In the midst of all our uncertainty, we are reminded of the old truths, that God loves us, God forgives us, God restores us to new life. Christ is being born again, bringing grace, offering mercy, and wrapping us in arms of love! Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination:

God of newness,

we want to be ready...

we want to make room for you...

we want our lives to be changed by your Advent.

So speak to us in our busy-ness and our quietness...

our uneven-ness and our level-ness...

our roughness and our smoothness...

so that, either way, your glory might be revealed to us.

Amen.



Scripture Lesson: 1 Timothy 4:6-10

Eric Sowder

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer. If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives' tales. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to

this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

Sermon: "The Advent Lens of Hope" (separate Zoom link is included in the email)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Hymn of Meditation # 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come

Rev. Maggie Lauterer

Text: Clair Cloninger, 1986; Music: Don Cason, 1986

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Prayers for the People

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Creator God, we are your clay, we are all your people, each of us molded by the work of your Hand. Gather us from the four corners of the earth and restore us, that we may be relieved of our unbelief, awakened by your Light, and never again turn away from you.

O Lord of Hosts, keep us alert and prepared.

Sovereign God, enlighten the souls and steady the hearts and minds of all who govern in our country and across this Earth. Straighten the path to peace and unity with local, national, and international friends and adversaries alike, guiding our leaders on the path to justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

O Lord of Hosts, **keep us alert and prepared.**

Comforter God, embrace and sustain all who are seriously ill or facing desperate times, that they, and those who give support, may know your warmth, light, and healing. We now join our hearts together to pray for those in need...*add your own petitions.*

O Lord of Hosts, **keep us alert and prepared.**

Loving God, we pause in this moment to offer you our additional heartfelt thanksgivings, intercessions, and petitions ...*add your own petitions*

O Lord of Hosts, **keep us alert and prepared.**

We pray in the name of Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Ashlyn DeWitt

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

You gift us, Loving God, not so we will hoard, but would share with others; not that we might accumulate more, but offer gifts to those who have so little. In the waiting, may we realize the wanting; in the listening, may we hear the brokenness, in the watching, may we see the weariness, and pour out our gifts, our lives, and our hearts on others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 82 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Rev. Maggie Lauterer

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744; Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830

**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 trembling 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 own sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**



Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Be bearers of hope,
those who watch and wait
and prepare for Christ to appear
in both simple and courageous acts
of love and justice, peace and kindness,
that transform the world
one person at a time.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you and all creation. Amen.