

Crossnore Presbyterian Virtual Worship Service
Sunday, December 6, 2020

Prelude: *Zion Rise* performed by Stefanie Przybylska, Bassoon
https://youtu.be/L5_3kd8HLjE

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Choral Call to Worship # 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*
Text: Taize Community; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984
(no video for this song)

Bobby Taylor



Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all the people will see the salvation of our God.

Lighting of the Advent Candles of Hope and Waiting:

Marie Cook

Advent reminds us that we are waiting for God to come to us, God in the form of the baby Jesus, who lived and died and rose for us. We wait for God, who will come again in a new and surprising way. We light the first candle to remind us of hope. We light the second candle to remind us to wait and be ready.

From Luke 12, "Be dressed and ready for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them."

Light the Advent Candles of Hope and Waiting

Let us pray: God, in whom we hope, we wait for your coming to us once again. Strengthen us as we wait. Help us to stay awake to the signs of your coming. Amen.

Call to Worship:

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Christ, God's gift to the world, shall come:

For those who feel despair will know hope.

For those who are oppressed will know freedom

For those who are lonely will know love.

For those who are suffering will know inner peace.

O Christ, Light of the world, while we are waiting, come!

*Hymn of Praise # 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*, verses 1, 2, and 5
Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

Bobby Taylor

Sing along with Bernadette Farrell and Chet Valley Church: <https://youtu.be/kt3Qc04uIOM>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Refrain

**Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until are fed.**

Refrain

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.**

Refrain

**Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.**

Refrain

Call to Confession:

Allen Barwick

In this Season of Advent, God calls us to wait in silence, to wait patiently, to wait in hope. But waiting makes us anxious. Let us confess our difficulty in listening to God's voice in the midst of a pandemic and a season that is supposed to be filled with shopping and parties and presents. Let us bring our anxiety before God as we share together the prayer of confession.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you, but so often we get in the way of ourselves. We see only the deep sadness of the world, and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow. We assume that things will never get better, and do not see all that is good right now. We close our eyes and complain about the darkness, rather than see the light that shines all around us. Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again, we will see him, and know him, and rejoice. (moment of silent confession). Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

The good news of Advent is that Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new. Hear these words of assurance from Isaiah 40: "Comfort, comfort my people," says your God. "Your sin has been paid for." The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless."

Special Music: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* performed by Earthtones Trio, Katherine Bryan (flute)

<https://youtu.be/XgU6E5E6eg8>

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:3-5, 27-31

Jayne Spangler

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the Lord,



and my right is disregarded by my God'?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

*The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

Sermon: "Waiting for God's Promises to Unfold"

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

Dawn Bates

God's wisdom turns the wisdom of the world upside down. God calls us to unexpected and extravagant opportunities to grow in our gifts and in our faith. Holding things close in fear distracts us from the path of discipleship, but trusting in God and in God's future leads us to great generosity and joy. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the Light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you. We recognize everything we have belongs to you. We acknowledge that our very lives belong to you. We now offer back to you a portion of what you have given us. Guide our footsteps and watch over us on every path that we follow. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

***Hymn of Meditation # 507 *Come to the Table of Grace*, verses 1, 2, 5**

Bobby Taylor

Text and Music: Barbara Hamm, 2008

Sing along with pianist, Don McIntyre: https://youtu.be/0o_S61fY-bk

**Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.**

**Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.**

**Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Introduction:

As you prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper,
place a loaf of bread (or a slice) on a plate and fill a cup with juice or wine.
These are the elements that will be blessed as Christ invites us to share in the joyful feast.
It is Christ who invites us to the table, Christ who feeds us, and Christ who calls us
to share his body with others in ways that are healthy, helpful, and hopeful.

You may want to have one person be the liturgist sharing the parts that are not bolded and everyone else gathered be the congregation sharing the words that are bolded.

If you are by yourself, please share in the liturgy knowing that our congregation and all the communion of saints are sharing in this holy meal with you.



Invitation:

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south and from east and west

to sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

This is the Lord's table.

Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share in the feast he has prepared.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel,
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life.

Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.

Guiding his children, he leads us.

Visiting the sick, he heals us.

Dying on the cross, he saves us.

Risen from the dead, he gives new life.

Living with you, he prays for us.

Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with choirs of angels

and with all the faithful of every time and place,

who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup
and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Receive our sacrifice of praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us

that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,

that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God,
through Christ your Word made flesh,
in the holy and life-giving Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution:

(Hold the bread and break it into two pieces)

On the night that he was betrayed,

*Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

(Hold the cup up to God)

*In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*

Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Pass the bread to the person next to you and say, "The Body of Christ given for you."

Pass the cup to the person next to you and say, "The Blood of Christ shed for you."

You can take the bread and hold it and dip it in the cup or you can eat the bread and drink from the cup.
(Practice what is the safest, health wise, as you share in communion).

Prayer after Communion:



God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Closing Hymn # 92 *While We are Waiting, Come*

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

Bobby Taylor

Sing along with the Morgan State University Choir: <https://youtu.be/KQlti0UN5oA>

**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.**

**Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

Charge and Benediction:

People of God, we wait with hope;
we wait with courage;
we wait with joy unspeakable;
we wait with the assurance that Christ is coming in power, in justice, and
in peace.

Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you always. Amen.

**Postlude: A contemporary version of *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*
sung by Meredith Andrews**

<https://youtu.be/tGImcXqCWNA>

Rev. Kathy Campbell



