

Sunday 10am Service (O2T1)

3 December 2023

Welcome

Call to Worship

All creation holds its breath. **The time is almost here.**

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement is all around us.

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.

Song: Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

You are the everlasting God The everlasting God

You do not faint You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

CCLI Song # 4556538 Brenton Brown | Ken Riley

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Song: Yet not I

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer

There is no more for heaven now to give

He is my joy my righteousness and freedom

My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus

For my life is wholly bound to his

Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine

Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

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Advent Wreath

This week is the first Sunday of Advent, and we are reminded again of the hope that Christ's coming brings for everyone.

This year, the invitation comes to us again. It is an invitation to slow down, to relearn a pace of life that is unhurried so that we can focus on a life lived in God's light. This life is one filled with hope, peace, joy and love. Jesus encourages us to live in 'readiness' – always aware that Christ's

coming is immanent and avoiding the temptation of growing absorbed in self-interest and personal pleasure.

Each year we light candles and the flame helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again. In God's Word the prophet Isaiah describes God as being the light of the world. "Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun; The glory of the Lord is shining on you! Other nations will be covered by darkness, but on you the light of the Lord will shine; The brightness of his presence will be with you."

The first candle is lit.

Poem:

Light one candle; see it glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How one candle shows the way
Making our darkness as bright as God's day.

God at Work - Sue

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, And peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.11-6.2 (Merylin W)

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade people, but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well

known to your consciences. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;^[a] even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,^[b] we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there^[c] is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!^[d] ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,^[e] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As we work together with him,^[f] we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation!

Message

Offering Song: May the Mind of Christ

May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day,
by His love and power controlling
all I do and say, all I do and say

May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph

only through His power, only through His power

May the peace of God my Father, rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing, sick and sorrowing

May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing, this is victory, this is victory

May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus, as I onward go, as I onward go

May His beauty rest upon me, as I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, seeing only Him, seeing only Him

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Thanks for the Offering

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside-down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
To bless your church, your people, your creation.

Prayer of Confession

In penitence and faith let us confess our sins to Almighty God

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,

We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,

And in what we have failed to do:

We have not loved you with our whole heart,

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

We repent and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon us and set us free from all our sins, strengthen us to do his will, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for the Church and our World – Colin L

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
Are yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving Sue with Jaq and Nat

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,

He offered the one true sacrifice for sin

And obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,

And with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
This bread and wine and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we
who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. On
the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and when he had given you
thanks 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".
After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his
disciples, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new
covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as
often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross,

His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming again,

we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,

His one perfect and sufficient sacrifice

for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,

and bring us with all your people

into the joy of your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours forever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament
you assure us of your goodness and love.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
and help us to grow in love and obedience

that we may serve you in the world
and finally be brought to that table
where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Notices

Song: Sing to the King

Sing to the King Who is coming to reign
Glory to Jesus the Lamb that was slain
Life and salvation His empire shall bring
And joy to the nations when Jesus is King

Come let us sing a song

A song declaring that we belong to Jesus

He is all we need

Lift up a heart of praise

Sing now with voices raised to Jesus Sing to the King

For His returning we watch and we pray
We will be ready the dawn of that day
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed
'Cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King

CCLI Song # 4010902 Billy J. Foote | Charles Silvester Horne
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Blessing