

**Vasa Lutheran Church**  
*Spirit of the Lord upon Me*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way...  
our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey.

We reach out, desperate  
for comfort  
for balance  
for the familiar  
for hope

In the darkest times,  
even a faltering light can be just enough:  
the flame flickers, twinkles, dances—and it is dazzling!  
For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.

~Candles are lit~

However impossible it seems,  
here we are, the servants of the Lord, both perplexed and joyful —  
and blessed is the one who trusts that with God all things are possible.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, **Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

Come, O come, Emmanuel, God with us, and we will rejoice.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**  
**We have not welcomed the stranger;**



*he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **GENEROSITY MOMENT**

**CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:** After the words of institution you will be invited to open your portion and serve yourself.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.  
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets  
to make known your loving will for all humanity.  
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.  
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,

that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.  
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Give us the courage to follow in the foot steps of Christ, who taught us to pray,  
saying...

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

### **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

#### **BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ be with you now and  
forever. Amen.

Let us pray (*in unison*) Gracious and abundant God,  
**you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR**

**ELW 282**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.  
Amen.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Jessie Otto,  
Jerry McRae, Eileen Anderson, Sherri Broin, Jeannette Larson.

Parish Pulse:  
**November 29 & December 6, 2020**  
Participating in Worship: All--in spirit!  
Total Offerings: \$3,565.00.  
***Mary Nelson Memorials to Community***  
***Dinner Fund: \$1,570.00***



**The Endowment Team** is meeting On Monday,  
December 14, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room.



All of the ornaments on our Goodhue County Sharing Tree have been claimed!! (Good job Vasa People!!) **Please plan to bring your gifts to the Center by 6:30pm on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> so we can get them packed up for delivery on December 20<sup>th</sup>.** The Center is still open during the day—9:00-6:30.



Again, it is with great regret that we *decided to also cancel the January Community Dinner*. Even though the need is great, so too is the health and safety of those who receive the meals, and all of our loyal volunteers who prepare and deliver them. We are keeping our fingers crossed for February to resume this wonderful ministry. Please share this information widely!



**American Red Cross**

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for January 21, 2021 from 1:00-7:00pm AND January 22, 2021, from 9:00am-3:00pm. To sign up, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). If you need assistance, go to [customercare@redcross.org](mailto:customercare@redcross.org).



While we continue with our virtual worship, Communion portions are available at the Lutheran Center. Please feel free to stop by pick up as many as you wish. They are just inside the front door.



Because we are not worshipping in person at this time, Emily's office hours have been adjusted. For now, she will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30, *except* at the end of the month when she will be here Tues-Wed-Thursday to work on the Vasa Voice. Pastor Maureen will be available as usual.