

Vasa Lutheran Church

Joel: God's Promised Spirit

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Tom Erickson

Sunday, December 6, 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,
hope is alive, even in the midst of this world,
and blessed is the one whose living hope reveals God's good news.

Stir up our hearts, **Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✠ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE ELW 256

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Loving Lord, **When we have strayed, you have called us
to come home to you. "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with
weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing." With
all our hearts we return to you, and gratefully accept your gentle love, for
the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ our loving savior.**
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

MUSICAL INTERLUDE LOST IN THE NIGHT ELW 243

MEDITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART ELW 800

PROFESSION OF FAITH

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;*

*he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
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

Offering plates will not be passed, but are sitting near the doors as you leave.

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS: We will remain in the pews for communion today. Each of you should have picked up a communion portion prior to worship. 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

HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE

ELW 398

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.

POSTLUDE



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Jessie Otto, Jerry McRae, Eileen Anderson, Kathi Pearson (Rosann's daughter-in-law), Sherri Broin, Jeannette Larson.

Parish Pulse:

November 22, 2020

Participating in Worship: All-in spirit!

Total Offerings: \$1,600.00.

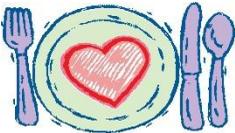




If you are one of the families creating a video for the Children's Christmas program, your videos are DUE TODAY, December 6th! Please email your videos to Mark Hagen at markhagenster@gmail.com. The final presentation will be released on December 20.



The Goodhue County Sharing Tree is up in the lobby of the Lutheran Center. All ornaments have been claimed!! (Good job Vasa People!!) Please plan to bring your gifts to the Center by 6:30pm on Tuesday, December 15th so we can get them packed up for delivery on December 20th.



COMMUNITY DINNER

It is with great regret that we have made the decision to cancel the December 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 hope to resume this wonderful ministry in January. 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. If you need assistance, go to customercare@redcross.org.