

Welcome to
St. Luke Cedar Hill
and
Lutheran Church of the Cross
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020
An Ecumenical Service



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Organ Prelude: Susanne Reul-Zastre

Lighting of Advent 1 Candle during the Prelude

The Rev. Daniel Fournier:

O God, let your blessing come
upon our two communities gathered before you.
Bless us, (+) and this Advent wreath (+)
May the light that shines forth from it
illumine our way
as we journey towards Christmas;
May the light that shines forth from it
illumine our lives as we wait in hope
for the birth of the Christ-child.
We ask this through Christ
who is the Light of the World.
Amen.

Welcome to this Advent Evening Service:

The Rev. Daniel Fournier; Pastor Lyle McKenzie and
Pastor Lyndon Sayers

Opening Prayer:

Pastor Lyle McKenzie

God of Surprising Generosity
and Unexpected Grace,
We are gathered together to witness a miracle;
to prepare our hearts for a new invasion of Your Light;
We have come once again to open our souls
and our lives to the divine birth.
And in this sacred moment we ask
for Your Gentle Presence
to captivate and challenge us.
For Jesus' sake.
Amen.

Duet: ELW 252 “Each Winter as the Year Grows Older”
(Lutheran Church of the Cross)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64: 1-9
(Reader: *Tara Poilivere*)

Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Mark 1: 1-8
(Reader: *Gillian Bloom*)

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection: The Rev. Daniel Fournier

Hymn: CP 96 "Creator of the Stars of Night"
(St. Luke)

THIRD READING: Psalm 126
(Reader: *Jackie Buston*)

Reader: A reading from the Book of Psalms.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

FOURTH READING: Luke 1: 26-38
(Reader: *Nicki Ni*)

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord

God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Pastor Lyndon Sayers

Hymn: CP 88 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
(St. Luke)

Prayers of Intercession:

Lutheran Church of the Cross: Terynn McKenzie

St. Luke: Barb Prescott, Sylvia Sinclair, Joan Scandrett

The Lord's Prayer:

The Rev. Daniel Fournier

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All: 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 for ever.
Amen.**

Duet: ELW 261 "As the Dark Awaits the Dawn"
(Lutheran Church of the Cross)

Closing Prayer and Benediction:

Pastor Lyle McKenzie

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts.
That the God who breathed this world
into being, placed stars into the heavens and
designed a butterfly's wing
is the God who entrusted his life
to the care of ordinary people,
became vulnerable that we might know.

All: Amen

Postlude

**Thank you to the Worship Team Members
from both churches for their work producing
this First Sunday of Advent Service.**

From St. Luke's: Ministry Team: Rev. Daniel Fournier and Rev. Joan Scandrett; Readers: Tara Poilievre and Gillian Bloom; Intercessions: Sylvia Sinclair, Barb Prescott, and Rev. Joan Scandrett; Music Director and Organist: Susanne Reul-Zastre; Choir Members: Olivia Craster, Sharon McMillan, and Matthew Robertson; Videographers: Rev. Joan Scandrett, Rev. Daniel Fournier, Sharon McMillan, and Matthew Robertson; Slide Designer: Sharon McMillan; Producer: Rev. Daniel Fournier.

From Church of the Cross: Ministry Team: Pastor Lyndon Sayers and Pastor Lyle McKenzie; Readers: Jackie Buston and Nicky Ni; Intercessions: Tarynn McKenzie; Music Director: Brian Wismath; Musician: Carolyn Hoekstra; Choral Scholars: Abby Corpus and Grady Forsberg; Video Post Production: Brian Wismuth.