ORDER FOR WORSHIP

1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

GATHERING

The Holy
Spirit calls us
together as
the people of
God.

PRELUDE

"O Come, Emmanuel"

arranged by Carol Tornquist

WELCOME

PRAYER

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Gracious God, we honour your name. Today we begin our Advent journey to the manger. As we gather in darkness, we light the first candle on this wreath of anticipation. Let us take notice. Give us peace and grace as we prepare to welcome Jesus with joy. Amen.

SONG

"Christ Be Our Light" (vs. 1)

ELW 715



Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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BUILDING OF THE CRECHE

Each week in Advent we will add to the Creche as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. The story, "Who is Coming to our House?" by Joseph Slate, will be read as we prepare for the arrival in the stable and in our hearts of someone special.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song

GOSPEL

Mark 13: 24 - 37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

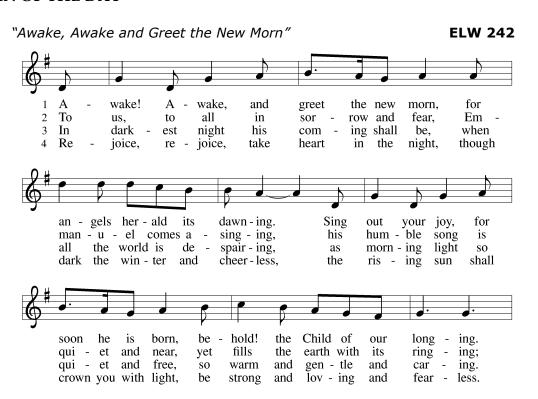
[Jesus said:] 24 In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from



heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will 32"But about that day or hour pass away, but my words will not pass away. no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

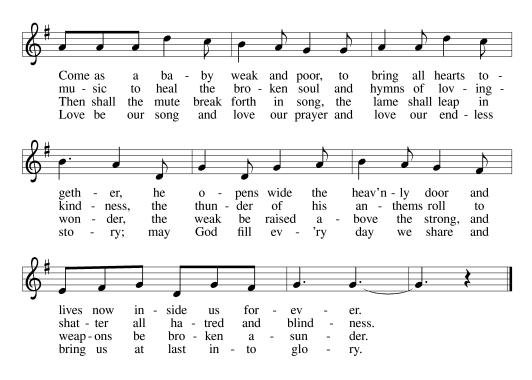
REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY



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Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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THANKSGIVING

In everything Give Thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

SHARING of the PEACE

OFFERING

LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

ELW 244



St. Philip's Lutheran Church

SERVING TODAY

Marcia Powers-Dunlop
Chris Ritcey-Conrad
Dave Pascoe
Gary Wuschnakowski
Powers-Dunlop
Presider
Music Director
Videographer
Story reader

Kathy Drager Reader

No Fixed Address

Jenny Soupionis

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

In our Prayers

The Binhammer and Savage families, Rodney Erlandson, Melody Hogeveen, Mary Hughes, Al Jacksteit, Mark Kieswetter, Fran Moore, Marion Morningstar, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, Lesley Powell, Sydney Ross, Helen Scollnik, and Elga Smidt.

Ways to be involved

While we can't be in the building, there are still ways to stay involved and in community with others. Here are a few:

- Send us a picture of your Advent Wreath/Candles: stphilonline@gmail.com or text it to Pastor Tuula.
- Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom @ 7:00 pm
- Participate in the Virtual Worship: play an instrument or sing, read the Gospel, provide a Children's Message, lead the prayers, or tell a Faith Story. Please contact the office.
- Join in the Virtual Coffee Hour @ 11:00 am on Sunday mornings.

Drive-In Carol Sing and Tree Lighting

Register now for our Drive-In Carol Sing and Tree Lighting, December 13th at 4pm in the church parking lot. Following all safety COVID protocols, you listen to the live carols on your FM radio and sing along in your car! Space is limited, so registration is required. Reserve your spot here:

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/drive-in-carol-sing-tickets-130627206491. Questions? Contact us at stphilipslutheran@gmail.com (not the usual office email).

Pass the Offering Plate Please

Thanks for giving your offering regularly. Even while our doors are closed, our hearts and hands are open and busy. Our ministries need your support. Details for how to give are on stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/.