

Taking It Home

November 29, 2020 – Advent One

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 29, 2020 - First Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship & Prayer - Isaiah 64:1-9 - 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 forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Opening Prayer - Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Opening Song - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free, From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Praying The Psalms Together - **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 -  Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Announcements

* No Youth Group This Evening
* Kids Church - Wednesday 6PM
* Tutoring - Thursday Evening by Zoom contact Carrie Haley
* Continue to give of your tithes and offerings, in person or online
* Board Meeting - Wednesday, December 16 - 7PM
* Carols on the Quad - December 23

Scripture Reading- I Corinthians 1:3-9 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lighting of Advent Candles - Candle of Hope & Expectation (Purple)

If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!  The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down … To make your name known … so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope. We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more. O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Gospel Reading - Mark 13:24-37 - "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then 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. "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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It 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. Therefore, 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Sermon Notes - Christ Is Coming

**Remembering The Setting**

Jesus had warned his disciples three times that he would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is warning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus describes the day of desolating sacrilege when the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is destroyed.

**The Return Of Jesus**

Sometime after the temple is destroyed, Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in power and glory.

Upon his return he will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the elect, his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The fig tree teaches lessons about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ these things will happen.

The disciples will see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in their own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

They will not be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, no one knows the day or hour.

No matter what passes away before the Lords return, his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will not.

**Our Response**

As they wait for Jesus return, the disciples are to remain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The disciples are to be about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they have been appointed to.

Response of Prayer

Keep Silent and pray for those in need of hope-

**(Unison) - 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Service -

**Invitation:** So I extend this invitation to all – May you who live in love and peace with your neighbor and who strive to lead a new life following God’s ways and God’s commandments, draw near in faith, take this sacrament to your comfort, and humbly make your confession before God.

**Confession: (Unison)**

**God of holy expectation, Unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In this season of Advent, look with favor on the lowliness of your servants; fill the hungry with good things; and make your Church expectant in faith as we labor for what we cannot yet see. Amen.**

**Absolution:** Now hear these words of absolution: God is our wonderful counselor, who through Jesus exalts the humble, restores the broken, dwells among us, and extends forgiveness to those who ask for it.   **Thanks be to God**

**Prayer Over Elements:** Mighty God, You dwelt in ark and temple, and in the fullness of time you settled in Mary’s womb and became God with us. Come now, in the power of your Holy Spirit, and bless this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may be the body of Christ incarnate in this world, redeemed by Christ’s blood. Amen.

Closing Song & Benediction- Come Oh Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free, Thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.