

From your Council President – December 7, 2021

Last Sunday we celebrated the second Sunday of Advent at Holy Cross hearing the “Everlasting Light” liturgy being sung by our choir along with a special hymn. Pastor Curtis again led us in Holy Communion, and the candle of Light was lit. Recordings of the service may be viewed on YouTube at; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

This coming Sunday we will celebrate by lighting the third advent candle (Peace) during our Service of the Word and Sacrament. Please join us if you can **at 10:00 AM on Sunday, December 12, 2021**, in the sanctuary. We are still following our Covid protocols of wearing masks, sitting socially distant, and not singing from the pews.

After service we will decorate the Christmas tree that the Tuesday Crew will put up in the Sanctuary. Please plan to stay after to help if you are able. Also, December 12th is the deadline to return the gifts you have purchased for our adoptive families. Please bring them in to the office with the tags attached so Gae and Suzanne can get them wrapped and delivered to the proper recipients.

On the 19th we start our next rotation with the Family Promise/Interfaith families. We plan to do some Christmas meals for them this time around so please contact Doug Odell for details.

The revived, weekly bible study got off to a great start last Thursday and Carolyn has a reading list for this week if you are interested in joining. Contact Carolyn or Janet in the office for details.

We did receive word this past week that Georgie Dyer passed away on November 30th. Pastor Curtis presided over the memorial service with her family which I attended on behalf of Holy Cross. Many of you may remember the hats she wore to church each Sunday, along with her smile.

By the time you read this, your council will have met to discuss our worship schedule for year end, review the preliminary budget projections for next year, and discuss the formation of our transition team. If you are contacted about these important items, please respond with an open heart and mind. Another reminder that the written commentary for our Annual Report is due this month in the church office. Please send ASAP to Janet, via email in Word document format if possible.

As you can see, there is a lot going on at your church during the final month of 2021. Please try and take part in whatever activities you can and continue to prayer for the leaders and volunteers that make all these things possible. It is a small sample of how active your church is now and what we will be going through during the transition activities in 2022. More to follow next week.

Your servant in Christ, Bryan Struve, Council President

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church
December 12, 2021 – Third Sunday in Advent**

INVOCATION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; † Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another,

we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children

and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One,

and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

† your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

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.

ADVENT KYRIE (AN EXPRESSION OF GOD'S CONSTANT MERCY)

Lord, have mercy on your people. Christ, have mercy on us.
Shine your light into our darkness. Fill us with your holy love.
Be our strength in times of trouble. Set us free from chains that bind.
Breathe new life into our spirits. Purify our hearts and minds.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.

Heal all conflicts between nations. Teach us how to live as one.

Show us how to love our neighbor. Run to those who cry for help.

Word made flesh who lives among us; Christ our Lord, Emmanuel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READINGS AND PSALM

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst

Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *(Is. 12:6)*

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice, the Lord is near

Luke 3:7-18

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord.* All flesh shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia.* (Luke 3:4, 6)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 242 “Awake! Awake And Greet The New Morn”

APOSTLES’ CREED

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 INTERCESSION

OFFERING PRAYER

God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so that they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God’s mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remembered that “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 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.”

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord’s presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. † Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the Way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (*especially*).

With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (*especially*). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.