



Spirit of the
Lord upon Me

December 13, 2020
The Third Sunday of Advent



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org
Worship on Sundays at 10:30

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Call to Worship

One: Our Lord loves justice,
All: And hates wrongdoing.
One: God keeps promises
All: And makes up for what was lost.
One: We will rejoice in the Lord
All: For we have been clothed with salvation!

Gathering

Gathering Songs – Draw Me Close (Mike & Katie Weisenberger) & Messiah (Jim & Sara Nelson)

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Let us pray together.

God of the Stranger, **we wait for you to come among us and yet, you tell us you are already here. You are here in the hunger of a stranger, the handshake of a friend, the hug of a loved one. Give us eyes to see you in the face of everyone we meet. May we greet all people, friend and stranger, as we would greet you. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(Adapted from One Candle Liturgy, Rev. Karen Ware Jackson)

One: Today we light one candle for joy.

All: Because the world is broken and the wait is long, but our joy cannot be contained.

One: Joy interrupts our silence with song,

All: Joy stirs our feet into dancing.

One: "My soul magnifies the Lord," she whispers,

All: "and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior."

One: Today, we light one candle for joy.

All: Christ is with us

Hymn- Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory (Nan Crary and Kristin)

Greeting

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe God meets you right where you are. We gather in the name of our Triune God – Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit-- Our God of hope who is always with you!

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God,

You bring restoration and healing to a world in need. As we journey through this season of Advent, remind us of the ways you are inviting us to join you in your work of bringing good news to the oppressed, liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners, and comfort to all who mourn, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, Amen

The Word

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues with a reading from Isaiah

Narrator 1: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to

proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Narrator 2: They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

Narrator 1: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn- Let My Prayer Rise Up (Jim and Josiah Nelson)

(from Holden Evening Prayer)

As we sing together, we know that God hears all our prayers, those spoken aloud and those carried in the quiet of our hearts.

For those gathering on the Facebook Premiere, you are invited to write your prayers in the comment section on the right side of your screen. Wherever we are this day, God is with us, and God hears our prayers.

Prayers of the People

Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each petition will close with the words: God of Hope

And we invite you to please respond: **Hear our prayer.**

Offering

All that we have and all that we are comes from God. Let us give back to God in a spirit of generosity. There will be enough.

Offering Song- As The Deer (Mike & Katie Weisenberger)

The Feast

Setting the Table

The children lead us in prayer as we prepare for God's feast:

Let's pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

Confession

Now ready to be welcomed at Christ's table, let us first confess that God is God and we are not.

God of light,

We confess that we have not loved our neighbors in this world you have made.

We have not looked to your kingdom, but have looked to building our own.

We want more and more and we want bigger and better.

We have squeezed the margins until there is nothing left.

**Forgive us for not looking to your kingdom that is coming,
that encompasses all, that is not full of things, but full of life and the promise of hope.**

Your kingdom includes all of creation, all people, all of our sisters and brothers whom we have squeezed out. Forgive us. Call us to open our tightly clenched fists, to let go of what we have been holding onto, and allow your kingdom, your love, to be our life.

Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness

God is doing something new, and it won't look anything like we want it to. It's how God works best. God will lead us through, transform our lives, forgive long before we ever do. God does not define you as the things you've done but as a Child of God. Trust in God: You are forgiven. As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes your sin from you. God will see you through to the new kingdom, into new life. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

One: The Lord is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Jesus, remember us, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, in heaven, holy is your name.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread and 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 and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Amen.

Invitation to the Meal

You are welcome to this meal. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you. Bring all that you are and all that you have to the table. You will be fed. You are forgiven. There is enough.

Come, return to Christ's table.

Hymn – Day by Day (Nan Crary & Kristen Schlauderaff)

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. **Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with your body and blood. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Renewed in this meal, send us out to reflect your love. Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Sending

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? **We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.**

MILESTONES

It's time for milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life. Splash in the water this morning and remember that God joins us in hearing these milestones today.

If you gather on Facebook Premiere today, write your milestones in the comment section. Then after each person shares their milestone, the congregation is invited to respond by saying “MILESTONE!”

Blessing (by Rev. Elizabeth Rawlings, Disrupt Worship Project)

May you find time for rest this season

May you create space to prepare

May the Lord our God fill you with hope

May Jesus Christ be ever present in your heart

May the Holy Spirit illuminate your way

Amen

Sending Song- Bethlehem Highway (Jim & Sara Nelson)

Go in peace, Serve the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

Music to Send You Out

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Liturgy adapted from Disrupt Worship Project, and One Candle by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson. Sermon images from Unsplash.com.