

**Order of Service – December 11, 2016 – Service of Prayer and Praise  
Third Sunday of Advent**

**Music:** John Duerksen, Robin Schickedanz & Youth Group

**Preacher:** Pastor Bart

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***Good morning and welcome to our service.***

***If you need increased volume*** for the service, please see one of our ushers for an audio headset.

***If you are visiting St. Peter's today***, please tell us about yourself by filling out one of the brochures in the seat pocket in front of you and leave it in the offering tray.

***For the parents***, if you need to use a Cry Room for your children you are welcome to use the walkway area. The television there displays our service.

***Wednesday Morning Prayer Group*** meets at 10:00 am here in the walkway.

***"The Power of a Whisper" Study*** has started Thursdays, December 1st, at Noon, at the church with Pastor Bart.

***The Acts Bible study*** led by Bob Peters has resumed every Thursday at 10 A.M. It goes to 11:30. New people are welcome to come. We read the passage and have a free discussion. There is a coffee break at half time.

***Tine Ruiter will be going to Palestine*** to teach preschool through the Seeds of Hope Program. Prayers are important for Tine as she prepares to leave December 8th, for her 3 month mission trip. Tine would be most grateful for your financial support to help cover her expenses (as nothing is provided) and donations may be designated through your offering envelopes.

***Confirmation Meeting for Parents*** this Sunday after the service.

***Christmas Eve Services*** will be at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm and there will be a Christmas day service lead by Pastor Paul Knudtson at 10:00 am.

***Slovakia Mission*** is tentatively scheduled for August 16-28, 2017.

***Interested in Hosting a small Group Study.*** Talk to Pastor Bart.

***Interested in Teaching Sunday School.*** Talk to Pastor Bart.

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**Prelude: Yahweh**

Verse 1

How great is the Lord our King  
Creator of ev'rything  
Clothed in splendor wrapped in light  
Darkness has no place to hide

Pre-Chorus

Open up you ancient doors  
Make way for the risen Lord  
Open up you ancient gates  
Prepare the way for the

### Chorus

(He's the) King of glory strong and mighty  
Yahweh oh Yahweh  
King of glory strong and mighty  
Yahweh oh Yahweh

### Verse 2

Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall  
Our God stands above them all  
He fought the pow'r of death and won  
His rule and reign can't be undone

### Pre-Chorus

Open up you ancient doors  
Make way for the risen Lord  
Open up you ancient gates  
Prepare the way for the

### Chorus

(He's the) King of glory strong and mighty  
Yahweh oh Yahweh  
King of glory strong and mighty  
Yahweh oh Yahweh

### Bridge

The kingdom of our God endures forever  
There is no greater name  
(REPEAT)

### Chorus

(He's the) King of glory strong and mighty  
Yahweh oh Yahweh  
King of glory strong and mighty  
Yahweh oh Yahweh

## **Greeting and Announcements**

### **Advent Reading and Candle Lighting: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with

him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

### **Cold December Flies Away**

**LBW 53**

Cold December flies away at the rose red splendor.  
April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders  
At the holy unseen power of the tree which bears the flower.  
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flower, On the tree  
blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.  
All the world lay under death, eyes were closed in sleeping.  
But when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light  
Brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope,  
Highest hope of our hope's bright dawning, Son beloved of heaven.

Now the bud has come to bloom and the world awakens.  
In the lily's purest flower dwells a wondrous fragrance.  
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;  
And its beauty lives. In the flower it lives, in the flower and it spreads  
In its heavenly brightness, sweet perfume delightful.

Now we light a candle here, as we wait for Jesus,  
Darkness ends, salvation comes, from-God, who truly sees us.  
With this light our prayers arise. At midnight the watchman cries,  
That the Bridegroom comes, oh our Saviour comes;  
Let us wake. He's the Light, that our God did send us,  
Jesus Christ, Messiah

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Opening Hymn: 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)**

*Chorus*

Bless the Lord O my soul  
O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before  
O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

*Chorus*

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

*Chorus*

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

*Chorus*

*Ending*

Worship Your holy name  
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

**The Song of the Month:**

**The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

**WOV 632**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

**Traditional Advent Prayer**

*Leader:* O Lord Jesus, Christ, You are God's Wisdom coming from the mouth of the Most High God. You fill all creation, and with strength, order all things.

***Congregation:* Come be our wisdom and teach us the way of prudence.**

**L:** O Lord of Might and Ruler of the House of Israel. You appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Mt. Sinai.

**C:** Come with an outstretched arm and rescue us.

L: O Root of Jesse, you stand as an emblem before all people. In front of you the rulers of the world are struck silent. To you all the nations will bend their knees and acknowledge that you are Lord.

**C: Come quickly and deliver us.**

L: O Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel. You open and no one can close, you close and no one can open.

**C: Come and redeem all prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.**

L: O Dawning Light, Splendour of God's Everlasting Brilliance.

**C: Come bring light, understanding and hope to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.**

L: O King of all the nations, ruler that they long for, Cornerstone, uniting all people.

**C: Come and save us all, for you created us, forming us out of clay.**

L: O Emmanuel, God with us. Our King and Lawgiver, Anointed of the Nations and their Saviour.

**C: Come and save us O Lord Our God.**

**Hymn: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel**

**LBW 34**

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free  
Your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

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

### **Prayer of the Day**

**All:** Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **Children's Message**

#### **Old Testament Lesson      Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus **2** it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

**3** Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

**4** Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

**5** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

**6** then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

**7** the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**8** A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

**9** No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

**10** And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **Psalm 146**

**1** Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**2** I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

**3** Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**4** When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

**5** Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**6** who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

**7** who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

**8** the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.

**9** The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**10** The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

### **Epistle Lesson James 5:7-11**

**7** Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9** Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! **10** As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**This is the Word of the Lord**

### **Gospel Matthew 11:2-15**

**2** When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples **3** and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" **4** Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: **5** the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. **6** And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." **7** As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? **8** What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. **9** What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **10** This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my

messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' **11** Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **12** From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. **13** For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; **14** and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. **15** Let anyone with ears listen!

## Sermon

### Hymn: What Child Is This

LBW 40

What Child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

**Confession** p. 56

## Sharing of God's Peace

### Offering

#### Offertory Hymn: Christmas Offering

Verse 1

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star  
While angels sang to lowly shepherds  
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar  
Hoping to find the child from Heaven  
Falling on their knees  
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

Chorus 1

I bring an offering of worship to my King  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing  
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due  
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You  
I bring an offering to You

Verse 2

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love  
There is no shadow in Your presence  
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne  
Before the Holy One of Heaven  
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy  
Lord I come

Chorus 2

I bring an offering of worship to my King  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing  
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due  
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You

Chorus 2

Oh Lord I bring and offering to You

Ending

I bring an offering to You oh

**Offertory Prayer**

(p. 67 LBW)

*All: Blessed are you,  
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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 for the Family of God**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Closing Prayer**

### **Benediction**

### **Closing Song: Everlasting God**

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus

Our God You reign forever  
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus

You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Verse

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

**Postlude:**