



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

Vernon, British Columbia

December 3, 2023

## First Sunday of Advent

Pastor - David Reim . . . . . 549-5250

Organist - Julie Reim

Ushers - Willy and Roman Frank

**Pre-Service Meditation:** Psalm 51 Hymnal page 134

### - Our Hearts Prepare -

#### Opening Prayer

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, we come before You with joy and rejoicing that You sent your only Son, Jesus to save us from our sins and make us Yours forever. Through His death and resurrection You have opened up the way for us to come into your presence and receive Your Grace and Mercy. Come to us, we pray, and fill our hearts with your love and grace, that we may rejoice in the sure Hope of your return and our resurrection to eternal life. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

**Invocation:** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



#### Call to Worship:

P: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord!

**C: Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.**

P: Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;

**C: Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.**

P: For the Lord is the great God,

**C: And the great King above all gods.**

P: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

**C: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

P: For He is our God,

**C: And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.**

**Opening Hymn: 73** (third tune) Lift Up Your Heads

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring, Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:  
We praise Thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art Thou!
2. A Helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress,  
The end of all our woe He brings; Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:  
We praise Thee, Savior, now, Mighty in deed art Thou!
3. O blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless Sun of joy He is, Who bringeth pure delight and bliss.  
We praise Thee, Spirit, now, Our Comforter art Thou!
4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for Heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.  
To Thee, O God, be praise For word and deed and grace!
5. Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Thy inner presence feel, Thy grace and love in me reveal;  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

**Confession of Sins:**

P: Dearly beloved, God has said, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." (Jer. 31:3) In His Love, God came to rescue us from our sins and make us His own. Therefore let us come before our God in all humbleness and sincerity to confess our sins, confident that He forgives us for Christ's sake.

**C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I am a poor, miserable sinner. I have sinned against You with my thoughts, my words and my actions. I truly deserve Your eternal punishment. But I confess them to You because You have promised to forgive me for the sake of Your own dear Son who suffered and died for my sins. Lord, I desperately need Your Grace and Forgiveness. Be merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this confession, I assure you that God is full of grace and mercy and for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, He has forgiven all your sins. May God keep you in His grace, trusting and serving Him until Christ comes again to take us to be with Him forever.

**C: Amen**

### **Advent Candle Lighting**

Advent is a time of preparation. When you are preparing for some big event, there is hope and anticipation. Therefore the first candle on our wreath is designated **HOPE**. Our Hope is built on the sure promises of God. The Father who gave His only begotten Son promises to forgive us for His Son's sake. The Son who gave His own life for our redemption promises to come again and receive us to Himself in heaven. Therefore we light our first candle with the prayer that the Holy Spirit will fill our heart and mind with the sure hope and anticipation of His appearing in glory.

*Light the First Candle*

#### **Response in Hope:**

P: Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

**C: For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name.**

P: "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5:5)

**C: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, just as we hope in You.** (Psalm 33:20-21)

P: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

**C: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.** (Hebrews 10:23)

### **SING TO THE LORD**

*Antiphon*



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

#### **Select verses from Psalm 33**

P: Praise the Lord with the harp;

**C: Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.**

P: Sing to Him a new song;

**C: Play skillfully with a shout of joy.**

P: For the word of the Lord is right,

**C: And all His work is done in truth.**

P: He loves righteousness and justice;

**C: The earth is full of the  
goodness of the Lord.**

*Antiphon*

P: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!

**C: For praise from the upright is beautiful.**

P: Let all the earth fear the Lord;

**C: Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.**

P: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,

**C: The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.**

P: No king is saved by the multitude of an army;

**C: A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.**

P: Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him,

**C: On those who hope in His mercy,**

*Antiphon*

**Scripture Readings:**    Isaiah 11:1-10

11 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. 9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

### Romans 15:4-13

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

10 And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." 12 And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

### **Response of Praise: Psalm 98:1-6**

P: Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!

**C: For He has done marvelous things;**

P: His right hand and His holy arm

**C: have gained Him the victory.**

**Sing:** Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom. (L.H. 90 st.1)

P: The LORD has made known His salvation;

**C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.**

P: He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God**

**Sing:** See how God, for us providing, Gave His Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.  
Jacob's Star in all its splendor  
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender,  
Breaking all the powers of hell. (L.H. 90 st.3,5)

P: Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;

**C: Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.**

P: Sing to the LORD with the harp,

**C: With the harp and the sound of a psalm,**

P: With trumpets and the sound of a horn;

**C: Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.**

**Sing:** Oh, the joy beyond expressing

When by faith we grasp this blessing

And to Thee we come confessing

That our freedom Thou hast wrought! (L.H.90 st.7)

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12**

**P:** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



**C:** Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

### **Apostles Creed:**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

**Hymn: 56** Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring

1. Jesus came, the heavens adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;  
Jesus came for man's redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.
2. Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are bowed with care;  
Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.
3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiven;  
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heaven.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Now the gate of death is riven.
4. Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;  
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us, Glads our hearts, and dries our tears;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Cheering e'en our failing years.
5. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant When the heavens shall pass away;  
Jesus comes again in glory. Let us, then, our homage pay,  
Alleluia! ever singing Till the dawn of endless day.

**SermonText:** Hebrews 4:7-15

*"7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice,  
8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.'  
11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"  
12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said:  
"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*

Theme:

# All We Have is NOW!

I. NOW IS OUR TIME TO PREPARE FOR OUR ETERNAL FUTURE.

II. NOW IS OUR TIME TO HELP OTHERS PREPARE.

P: The Peace of God which surpasses all human understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Response:** (Hymn 401:1)

Praise to You and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,  
Who, to serve Your own creation, Did partake of flesh and blood.  
Teach me that I never may From Your fold or pastures stray,  
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where Your steps are leading.

**Hymn: 704** Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!  
O Jesus, let Your Word be A lamp to light my way,  
To show me how to please You, To guide me ev'ry day.

2 Your Zion strews before You Green boughs and fairest palms;  
And I too will adore You With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new  
And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

3 I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.

4 Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.



5 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.  
Despair not; He is near you, He's standing at the door  
Who best can help and cheer you. And bids you weep no more.

6 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams most cheering, And guide us safely home.

### **Offering of Thankful hearts:**

Sing while bringing up the offering: Hymn 69:6

Oh, rich the gifts You bring us, Yourself made poor and weak!  
O Love beyond expression, That here can sinners seek!  
For this, O Lord, will we Our joyous tribute bring You  
And glad hosannas sing to You And ever grateful be.

### **Prayers:**

### **Communion Liturgy:**

#### **The Preface:**

**Sung to hymn 102**

P: The Good Lord be with you.

**C: And with you, His servant.**

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**C: With hearts uplifted Thanks to Him we render:**

**With joy we come before Him,**

**In gratefulness Implore Him,**

**With thankful hearts adore Him Evermore!**

### **Thanksgiving Prayer:**

Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of Your great love, You have given us Your Son, Jesus Christ. We have seen His glory, and received His peace. Now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**The Sanctus:**

Sung to hymn 94

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of Your name!  
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:  
Hail, hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to You!

**The Lord's Prayer:**

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 and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**The Consecration:**

Our Lord Jesus Christ on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take eat, this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.

After the same manner also He took the cup, after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you; this up is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

**The Distribution:**

Take eat, this is the body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for the remission of your sins.

Take and drink, this is the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which was shed for you for the remission of all your sins. This do as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me.

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**The Thanksgiving:**

Sung to hymn 85

Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!  
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,  
And we have tasted of His word.

As His own servants we depart  
With His salvation in our heart.  
His saving power He has made known;  
His love through all the earth is shown.

Glory to God, the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!

**Benediction:**

Sung to hymn 102

P: The Lord bless and keep you, Look with love upon you, Be gracious, and  
cause His face to shine with peace

**C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**The Savior close beside us, God's love from harm to hide us, The Spirit's  
pow'r to guide us Evermore!**

**Amen**

**Closing Hymn: 800** Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river

I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story,

here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you,

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."



*Scripture Treasure to Remember:*

**Luke 1:45** *Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.*

## **This Week**

**Today** - Sunday School and Bible Class after the service.

**Christmas Eve Rehearsal** after Sunday School.

**Tuesday** - Worship Service at Pleasant Valley Manor 2:30.

Choir Rehearsal at 7:00

**Wednesday** - Skype Bible Study at 9:30

Bible Study with Karrie at 3:00

**Thursday** - Pastoral Study Club at 1:00

Catechism Class at 4:00

**Friday** - Instruction Class with the Chan family at 10:30

**Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00

Sunday School and Bible Class at 11:20

Christmas Eve Rehearsal after Sunday School

### **Children's Christmas Baskets**

If you would like to contribute to the Children's Christmas baskets this year, there is a basket on the table by the entry.

### **Congregation Christmas Dinner**

Our congregation Christmas Dinner is being planned for Sunday December 17th. Check the sign up sheet for items that are needed.

### **Christmas Celebration**

Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we are planning one combined service rather than a service in the morning and evening.

Our **Christmas Eve Children's** service will be at 2:00 pm. This year's service is titled "Images of Immanuel!"

Our **Christmas Day** festival service will be at 10:00 a.m.

### **December Birthdays and Baptisms**

Anita Johnston		6th
Roman Frank	12th	27th
Brit Edblad	13th	
Malachi Luke		16th
Karl Schwabe		23rd
Rosemarie Schwabe		26th
Ingrid Frank	27th	

### **Update on the Nepal Earthquake**

On November 3rd, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake hit the Jarjarkot district of Nepal, affecting over 150,000 people. Three days later, they were hit with a 5.6 magnitude aftershock. Missionary Ohlmann visited a congregation in the affected area. There was much devastation, 157 people lost their lives, many more are without homes, but by God's grace the members of our congregation were unharmed. We pray that the gospel will reach those who have been affected to bring comfort and peace.

You may read the full report with pictures at:

<https://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com/>