

**OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
November 29, 2020**

First Advent Communion Sunday
On the road to readiness

Worship leader: Julie Bergen Pianist: Lynette Janzen
Song leaders: Kathryn Janzen, Ben Buhler, Lynette Janzen
Children's Time: Marlene Campbell Sound: Doug McKinnell
Ushers: Bill and Anna Peters

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Adapted from Isaiah 64:1, 6, 9; Psalm 80:3

Leader: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: Do not remember our iniquity forever.

Lighting of the Advent candle

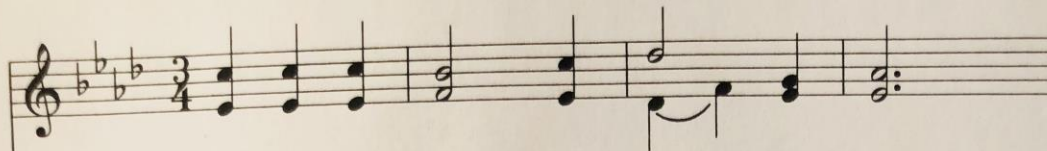
All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Invocation: God of Advent, in the darkest days and nights of the year, our hearts turn toward your promised light. With the first faint glimmer of a single candle dancing into the light of many bright flames, our hope is ignited once more. In these Advent days, lead us in your light to a manger where the face of God shines bright and clear. Amen.

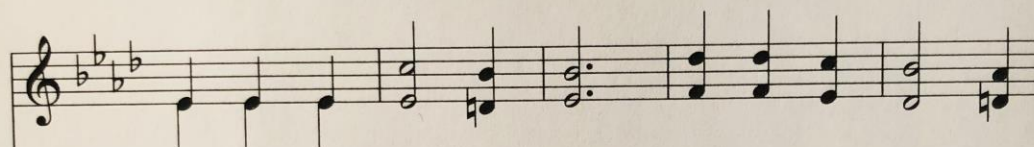
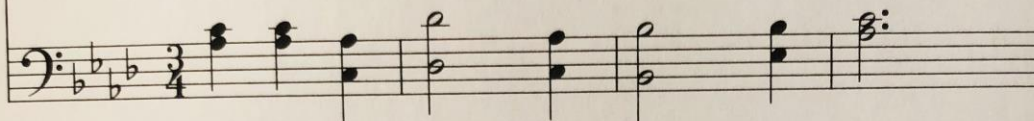
Hymn: Blue/HWB #588 "Jesus the very thought of thee"

Jesus, the very thought of thee 588

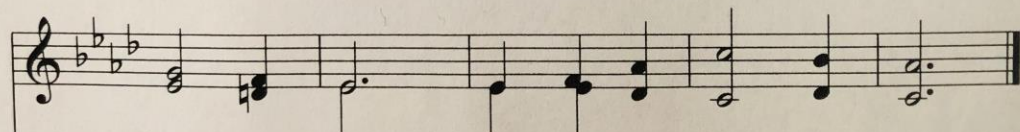
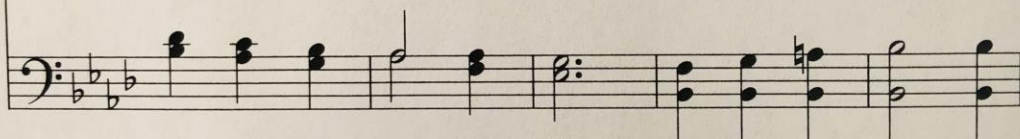
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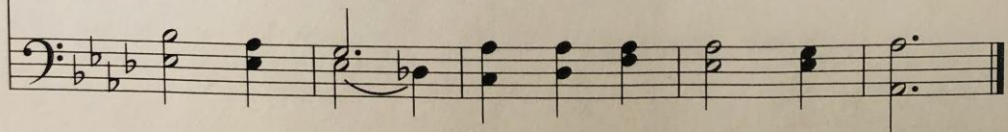
1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee
 2 Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
 3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite heart!
 4 But what to those who find? Ah, this
 5 Je - sus! our on - ly joy be thou,



1 with sweet-ness fills my breast; but sweet-er far thy
 2 nor can the mind re - call a sweet-er sound than
 3 O Joy of all the meek! To those who fal - ter
 4 nor tongue nor pen can show! The love of Je - sus-
 5 as thou our prize wilt be; Je - sus! be thou our



1 face to see and in thy pres - ence rest.
 2 thy dear name, O Sav - ior of us all.
 3 thou art kind! How good to those who seek!
 4 what it is, none but his loved ones know.
 5 glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.



Text: attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux, *Jesu dulcis memoria*, 12th c.; tr. Edward Caswall, *Lyra Catholica*, 1849, alt.
 Music: John B. Dykes, *Hymnal for Use in the English Church*, 1866

Children's Advent Gathering Song: Blue/HWB #204 "Gloria" (on page 4)
 Children's Time: Marlene Campbell

Offering Prayer/Offertory
 Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Hymn: Blue/HWB #551 "In the stillness of the evening"

551 In the stillness of the evening
I DE SENE TIMERS STILLHET 88. 88. 88

1 In the still - ness of the eve - ning in - ner rest - less - ness be -
 2 My de - feats loom large be - fore me, and I know the day now
 3 God is great - er than our con - science. He who knows that I am
 4 Je - sus Christ's own word and prom - ise comes to me, a gift of
 5 If new days to me are giv - en, ev - 'ry hour with grace a -

1 falls me which I can - not o - ver - pow - er. In the
 2 pass - ing has been crushed to man - y piec - es. But as
 3 help - less, from the weight of guilt will free me. All my
 4 mer - cy: "All your sins are now for - giv - en!" Thus the
 5 bound - ing will give hope of new be - gin - nings. Peace of

1 midst of joy and glad - ness at the day's a - bun - dant
 2 day draws to its clos - ing I sur - ren - der all my
 3 trou - bled thoughts are qui - et for I am, in all my
 4 piec - es ly - ing bro - ken shall this ver - y day be
 5 mind pro - tects my slum - ber. Cour - age is re - stored for

1 bless - ings, si - lent pain is ev - er near me.
 2 un - rest to the One who is be - side me.
 3 weak - ness, still be - lov - ed and ac - cept - ed.
 4 lift - ed in - to love's e - ter - nal whole - ness.
 5 liv - ing, I can meet the new to - mor - row!

Text: Svein Ellingsen, I de sene timers stillhet, 1971.
 Translation copyright ©1990 Hedwig T. Dumbaugh
 Music: Harald Herresthal, 1977
 Original Text and Music copyright ©1978 Norsk Musikforlag, A/S, Oslo

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37 (The Inclusive Bible)

“ But in those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, 25 the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and glory; 27 then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 “Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Promised One is near, right at the door. 30 The truth is, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 “But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it—neither the angels of heaven, nor the Only Begotten—no one but Abba God. 33 Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come. 34 “It is like people traveling abroad. They leave their home and put the workers in charge, each with a certain task, and those who watch at the front gate are ordered to stay on the alert. 35 So stay alert! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows or at early dawn. 36 Do not let the owner come suddenly and catch you asleep. 37 What I say to you, I say to all: stay alert!”

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (The Inclusive Bible)

3 Grace and peace from our Loving God and our Savior Jesus Christ. 4 I continually thank my God for you because of the gift bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, 5 in whom you have been richly endowed with every gift of speech and knowledge. 6 In the same way, the testimony about Christ has been so confirmed among you 7 that you lack no spiritual gift, as you wait for the revelation of our Savior Jesus Christ. 8 God will strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Savior Jesus Christ. 9 God, through whom you have been called into intimacy with Jesus our Savior, is faithful.

Response to the Scripture:

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,

People: Thanks be to God!

Hymn: Blue/HWB #204 “Gloria”

Gloria 204

GLORIA III

Canon

1 Dm Gm C F 2 Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

3 Dm Gm C F 4 Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Jacques Berthier
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Communion Reflection: This First Advent we are on the road to readiness but what does readiness look like? The prophet Isaiah puts a request to God, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down” (Is.64:1). The readiness is a desire for God, a heart cry for God at our level or in our circumstances - here and now, not in the distant future. Isaiah proclaims the miracle of incarnation, God present with us, meeting the longing of our human hearts. The psalmist also offers a parallel request: “Come to save us!” For God to find space in our circumstances there must be a readiness, even desperation as a heart cry, “Bring us back to you, O God.” The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians recognizes that part of this engagement with God takes shape in the new community where “God who is faithful, calls us into the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.” And the gospel points us to a timelines, a moment for engagement with God now. Are we ready?

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made the heavens and the earth.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Amen.

Special Music: Come Healing

Hymn: Blue/HWB #178 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

PROCLAIMING: Jesus' Advent

178 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL 87. 87D

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus! born to set thy
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free, from our fears and sins re - lease us,
yet a king, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is-rael's strength and con-so-
now thy gra-cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, dear de-
Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone. By thine

sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Leader: Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, it is our duty and our delight to prepare ourselves to hear the message of the angels and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from before the creation of the world through the time of our rebellion against God, to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child, preparing our hearts to welcome him with hymns and songs of praise and loving devotion.

As we do, we pray for the needs of the whole world, for abiding peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died. We remember in Jesus 'name those living with poverty, with violence, with loneliness, with bitterness, with trauma, with fear. We remember those who do not know the abundance of God's love or the joy of receiving this gift. We also remember with gratitude the whole multitude which no one can number, who rejoice with us but on another shore, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. These prayers we offer in the words Christ himself has taught us:

All: 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. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

For those on-line, please hold your communion bread and for those in sanctuary, as carefully as you can, please peel off the communion wafer and you can put the juice part in the holders in the back of the pews. Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have poured into us the new light of your incarnate Word. Send your Holy Spirit to us so that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives.

Let us eat together in silence. In the same way, let us hold our cups at home and carefully hold them while we pray.

Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; and also on the last day where the Lamb will be our light forever. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us drink.

Hymn of Response: Green/SJ #95 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

95 I want to walk as a child of the light

HOUSTON 10 7, 10 8 with refrain

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear Sun of Righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The

night and the day are both a-like. The

Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

Benediction: May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, will do this. **All: Alleluia! Amen.**