Welcome to Beautiful Savior!

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Advent – Tidings of Comfort and Joy

"The Angel Speaks to Joseph's Confusion"

December 5, 2021 11:15 a.m.

O God, who brings comfort and joy, when the world baffles us with conflicting messages and puzzling events, speak to our confusion. Comfort us with the knowledge that you are with us in times of clarity and times of confusion.

P: Pastor C: Congregation A: Assisting Minister

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC *"Prepare the Way"* Eric Nuzum

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please kneel as you are able during a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: The Lord of Advent tells us to be watchful for his coming, keeping our lamps lighted, and our hearts clean. Therefore, let us confess to the Lord.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God and Father of all:
C: We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
P: God sent the Only Begotten Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show God's infinite love and forgiveness for all. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of ✠ Christ who came and will come again.
C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - PEACE The Ingrams

A: Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace. God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it, too. We dream of a peaceful world full of wolves, leopards, and lions eating and sleeping and dancing with lambs, kids, and calves. We dream of a peaceful world where nations come together, where war is a memory, and we eat at one table.

(Light Candle.)

A: We light this candle in Peace.
C: On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings peace surpassing all understanding.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING HYMN "*Comfort, Comfort Now My People"* vv. 1 & 3 **ELW 256**

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

GATHERING ADVENT DIALOGUE

P: This season of Advent confronts many of our emotions.
C: Sometimes we are confused, unsure of what is happening in our lives.
P: "Do not be afraid. The child is from the Holy Spirit."
C: God is with us.
P: The child shall be called Emmanuel.
C: And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God who brings comfort and joy, when the world baffles us with conflicting messages and puzzling events, speak to our confusion. Comfort us with the knowledge that you are with us in times of clarity and times of confusion. In Jesus's name we pray.
C: Amen.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR MISSION STATEMENT

P: Although as individuals we are unique in many and various ways, we gather as a congregation for a common mission.
C: In Jesus's name, we:
Bring Glory to God through fulfilling worship,
Serve God's people, both within our congregation and without,

Learn about the Lord's will for us through sharing and teaching, and
Connect within our membership and reach out to connect with others.

(Please be seated.)

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING Tom Ingram

FIRST READING *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A: The first reading is from the book of Isaiah, the eleventh chapter.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18-25*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him

Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor
"The Angel Speaks to Joseph's Confusion"

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* vv. 1 & 2 **ELW 257**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown,
C: we pray for peace.

P: Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world,
C: we pray for clarity.

P: Where people doubt your presence and your word,
C: we pray for trust.

P: Where people are curious, and await the future with hopeful anticipation,
C: we pray for wonder.

P: Most of all, when the world longs for you,
C: we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.

P: We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior.
C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

STEWARDSHIP READING *Luke 18:22*

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

OFFERING *"Here I Am to Worship"*

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Together, let us pray:
C: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: 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 is 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER – sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same;
by mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone;
oh hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.
The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
as we forgive others, our sins take away;
in times of temptation, to lead us be near;
from evil deliver your children most dear.
For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again,
From all of creation, forever. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

What is Holy Communion?
Holy Communion is a meal instituted by Jesus Christ that involves the receiving of God's forgiveness in a tangible form – we receive Jesus's life-giving body and blood in the presence of bread and wine (or grape juice). The meal is a time of remembrance and celebration.

Who can take part?
Holy Communion is something that not one of us has earned, so we receive it as God's free gift of life. The Church traditionally recommends that people be baptized before taking part, but all that is required is simply a heart that believes in Jesus Christ. If a person of any age wishes to be baptized, please let us know.

How does Holy Communion take place?
If you wish to take part, come forward as directed by the ushers. You will receive the wafer from the Pastor and the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant. If you wish to come forward for a blessing only, please cross your arms across your chest. You may also remain seated if you so wish.

HOLY COMMUNION *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* Mark Hayes

POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

SUMMARY OF WORSHIP

(Please stand as you are able.)

BENEDICTION – sung to the tune of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Now may the good Lord bless and keep, his love in us increase;
Lift up his face with shining grace, and grant eternal peace.
To Father, Son, and Spirit, Eternal One-in-Three.
Be thanks and praise through all our days. And to eternity!

SENDING HYMN *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* vv. 1 & 4 **ELW 264**

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, and share the Good News, for Christ is near.
C: We will! Thanks be to God!
P: And next time …
C: … we'll invite a friend!

We thank you for worshiping with us today.

We hope to worship with you again in the near future!

Many thanks to all those on our tech team
for making this livestream service possible.

Confession and Forgiveness are from the Liturgy by Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel, modified.

The Advent Candlelighting liturgy is from the Rev. Will Ryan, First Christian Church (DOC), Burlington, Iowa.

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HELPFUL INFORMATION

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – The 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. worship services will be livestreamed through our website and YouTube pages. People can gather with us in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. to worship in a more traditional style in person. We offer a more contemporary style worship service at 11:15 a.m. People can also worship in their homes with the livestream at 9 or 11:15 a.m., as well as access the recording of either service any time after worship concludes.

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