



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

+ + +

DECEMBER 14, 2022

ADVENT MIDWEEK

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

7:00 PM

This year's Advent Midweek "Service of Word and Prayer" is adapted from All Creation Sings, a new worship resource of the ELCA. The theme of this year's Advent series, is "Holy Interruptions, Holy In-dwellings," a reminder that God often interrupts our plans and encounters us in the midst of life's busyness, dwelling in us with grace and peace so that, transformed, we might live with hope and joy.

Advent offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Prelude on 'Come Now, O Prince of Peace'
Tune OSOSO by Geonyong Lee; Organ setting by Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as you are able

Greeting

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
the love of Christ + that guards our hearts and minds,
and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a pathway for your Christ.
By his coming speak peace to your people and turn our hearts toward you, that your saving grace and splendid glory may dwell in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Silence

Use this brief time of silence to let go of the busy-ness of this time of the year and its stress. The beginning and the end of this period of silence will be marked with the sound of a bell.

Opening Song

The assembly joins together in the song below.

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” ELW 247

OSOSO

Text & Music: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope; Text © Geonyong Lee

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection and song.

First Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-6, 11-13

Read responsively.

¹O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶**Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

12let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13abefore the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

13bHe will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7

4But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5**in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. **6**And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **7**So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Advent Reflection

“God is faithful”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Song

“Wait for the Lord” ELW 262, Sing three times

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; T&M © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

The image shows a musical score for the song "Wait for the Lord". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Prayers

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

In Romans Paul tells us, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” Let us pray.

Creating God, You made the heavens and the earth; all creation is glad and rejoices. The fields exult, and everything in it, for the Lord is coming. Bless us to see the beauty of this world and help us to declare your glory among the nations and your works among all peoples. Savior, we wait for you;

Hear us as we pray.

Eternal God, You come to judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with truth. Bless us to hold fast to what is good, abstaining from every evil. We have been adopted as your children; help us to look upon all our neighbors as sisters and brothers, always treating others with justice, dignity and love.

Savior, we wait for you;

Hear us as we pray.

Healing God, You sanctify the human spirit and soul and body, keeping your children sound and blameless for the coming of Christ Jesus. Bless your children in all circumstances, that they may rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in all times, give thanks. Savior, we wait for you;

Hear us as we pray.

Loving God, You sent your Son, born of Mary, to redeem those who were under the law. Bless us always to sing a new song, telling of your salvation from day to day, until that day when you come to judge the world in righteousness. Savior, we wait for you;

Hear us as we pray.

Abundant God, receive the gifts of our offerings and of our lives, always recreating us in your image to reflect your glory. Walk with us this Advent, that we may rediscover the grace of Christ in-dwelling in our humanity. Savior, we wait for you;

Hear us as we pray.

God, you search the human heart, giving knowledge of the Spirit; intercede, we pray for these prayers of the faithful. This we pray in Jesus' holy name.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus teaches us.

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

The God of hope fill us
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus † for whom we watch and wait.

Amen.

Postlude

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO, 14th century German carol

Organ setting by Johann Sebastian Bach, BWV 751



This service adapted/reprinted from *All Creation Sings*, "Service of Word and Prayer, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; musician: Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Worship and Congregational Life

Advent Schedule

12/18 Advent 4: St. Mark's Choir, St. Mark's Handbells, and Organ 10:30

During Advent, prepare your heart with prayer and song.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

12/24 at 8 pm at St. Mark's and live on Facebook at SaintMarksCharlotte.org
St. Mark's Choir, Brass Quintet, Vocal Soloists, and Organ

12/25 Christmas Day & 1/1/23 First Sunday of Christmas, 10:30 am service only

"A Time for Stories!" 2023 Fall Stewardship Appeal Faithfully and joyfully consider your pledge of support for St. Mark's in the coming year. The pledge form is included in the "A Time for Stories!" brochure, available in the Gathering Place. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. An online pledge option is available from our webpage, or you may use the QR code (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page.



St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Paul Davis, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Jon McKenzie, Betty Lentz, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, and Sam Temple.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Lester Ackerman,
Director of Music Ministry, Organist
lackerman2@aol.com

Sue Wadgyman, Parish Administrator
stmarkselca1001@gmail.com

Jessie Craig, Financial Administrator
saintmarksfinance@gmail.com

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | saintmarkscharlotte.org | 704.375.9185