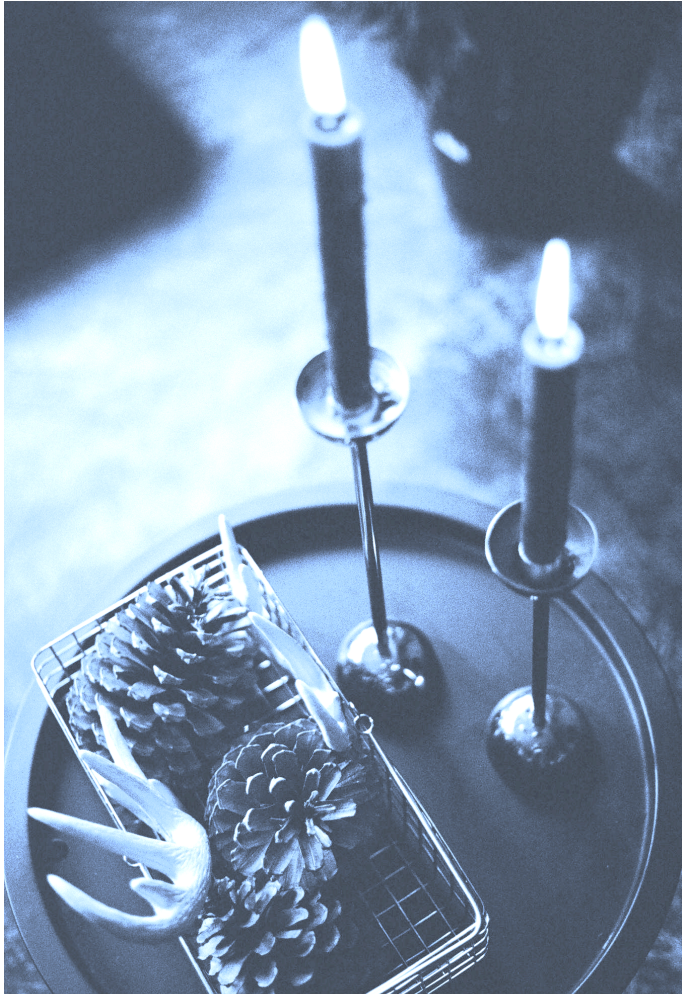


# ***Abiding Peace Lutheran Church***

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828  
973-691-9393 • [www.abidingpeacechurch.org](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)  
Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



## **Advent 2 Midweek Service**

December 11, 2024

7:30 p.m.

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## PRELUDE

Prelude on JEFFERSON

W. Walker  
arr. Carlton R. Young

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

*P* The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C* And also with you.**

### GATHERING LITANY

*P* We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear.

***C* We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation.**

*P* We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes.

***C* We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so that we can be still when we need rest.**

*P* We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth.

***C* We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.**

*P* We live in a world that is broken and hurting.

***C* We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people and teach us to see and value each other.**

*P* God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven together, that we will be healed and whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness.

***C* Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel **ELW 250**

*Please stand, as able, and sing.*



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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## THANKSGIVING FOR DARKNESS AND LIGHT

*P* The Lord be with you.

*C* **And also with you.**

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*P* We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created light and darkness, day and night, and you set the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to govern all our hours. In a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day you led your people into freedom. Lead us in the darkness and the light by the presence of Christ, your Word. May your Spirit be a safe cover of darkness, like the darkness of rich soil sprouting seeds, or the womb that cradles new hope. May the Incarnate One be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

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

### THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF FLORILEGIA

*A medieval Christian practice called Florilegia (in Latin it means “gathering flowers”) is the act of gathering favorite words and phrases from a text like gathering flowers into a bouquet. In the seventh century, a French monk named Defensor called his gathering of favorite words and phrases The Book of Sparklets. In this season we will collect sparklets! As you listen, you are invited to underline or circle words, phrases, or whole verses that “sparkle” to you. Each reading will be read twice, When the reading ends, you will have the opportunity to write your sparklets onto paper flowers to be hung on our tree.*

### THE PSALM

**Luke 1: 68–79**

*The Psalm will be spoken responsively.*

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 **He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,**

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets  
from of old,  
71 **that we would be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us.**  
72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
73 **the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us**  
74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
75 **in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.**  
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
77 **to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**  
76 By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
77 **to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of  
death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

## THE READING

**Isaiah 35: 3–7**

*L* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 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."

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

*L* The Word of the Lord.  
*C* **Thanks be to God.**

## SHARED REFLECTION

*After we transfer our chosen words or phrases onto the paper flowers, worshipers are invited to “gather our flowers together,” by speaking the words of hope, comfort, or challenge as we hang the flowers on the tree.*

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

Canticle of Turning **ELW 723**



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



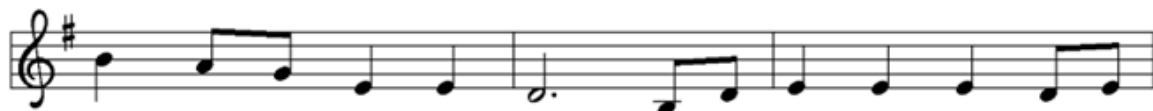
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*P* God for whom we watch and wait, we come with our prayers for your people, your whole creation, and the coming of your kingdom.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

*A* We pray for those who are lonely, fearful, or struggling to know their worth, that they would receive comfort . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

***C* come Lord Jesus.**

*A* We pray for those who do not have enough, that they would receive what they need, and for those who have too much, that they would find the joy of sharing what they have . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

***C* come Lord Jesus.**

*A* We pray for those who face illness, pain, grief, or death, that they would be held in love throughout their struggles . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

***C* come Lord Jesus.**

*A* We pray for creation, that your human children would treat it with reverence, gratitude, and care, and receive its life-giving gifts with grace . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

***C* come Lord Jesus.**

*A* We pray that all your people, made in your image, will be stirred to embody your presence as we prepare for the transforming embodiment of your love in the birth of Jesus . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

***C* come Lord Jesus.**

*A* We offer you these prayers in the name of the one who was, who is, and who is to come, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

***C* Amen.**

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*P* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

***C* And also with you.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*P* Precious Jesus, teach us to pray:

**C** 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.*

## THE BENEDICTION

*P* May God give you strength and courage to keep watch for the One who is coming. May God give us to one another so we remember we are not alone. May God give us to the world to prepare the way for the coming kingdom. In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit..

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## SENDING HYMN

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus **ELW 254**

*All stand, as able, and sing.*



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## DISMISSAL

*P* Go in peace. Practice hope.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Minuet and Trio in F

Joseph Haydn

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## ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

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