

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

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Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



Advent 2 Midweek Service

December 11, 2024

7:30 p.m.

PRELUDE
Air in A Minor

Jacques Champion de Chambonnières
arr. S. Drummond Wolff

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

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory ELW 561

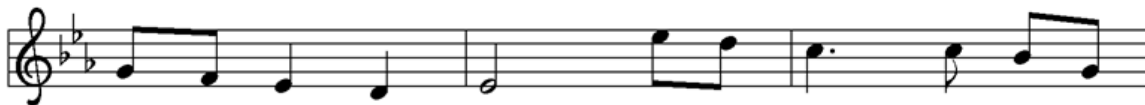
Please stand, as able, and sing.



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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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

Isaiah 12:2–6

The Psalm will be spoken responsively.

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become
my salvation.

**3 With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

4 And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is
exalted.

**5 Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

THE READING

Isaiah 11: 1–9

L A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

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.

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

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord **ELW 573**



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; my spir - it
2 For you a - lone, O God of might, have done a -
3 Your arm is strong; your strength is great. You scat - ter
4 You feed the hun - gry as your own; the wealth - y
5 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or



leaps, by joy pos - sessed. You keep me in your kind re -
maz - ing things for me. Your mer - cy flows; your name like
those of proud in - tent and cast them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. You give your help to Is - ra -
to the in - car - nate Word, and praise the Pow'r of God most



gard; all gen - er - a - tions call me blessed.
light re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate; then give the low your nour - ish - ment.
el; your gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.
high, from age to age by all a - dored.

Text: Stephanie K. Frey, b. 1952, alt., based on the Magnificat. Music: Heinrich Schutz, 1585-1672. Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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

People Look East **ELW 248**

All stand, as able, and sing.



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Practice hope.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on BESANÇON

French carol, arr. Glenn Wonacott

ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

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