

Unity Moravian Church
December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent / Saint Nicholas Sunday

The Congregation Gathers for Worship

Welcome and Call to Worship		Dana Myers
Lighting the Advent Wreath		The Garcia Family
Prelude	<i>Come Light Our Hearts</i>	Reserved Parking, Pre-Recorded

Hearing God's Word Proclaimed

Liturgy	<u><i>Advent 2</i></u>	Ashley / Brendan Garcia
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Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

We will offer the sacrifice of Thanksgiving and tell of God's deeds in songs of joy.

Awake, awake, you people of God, put on your festive garments.

For God has already clothed us with the garments of salvation and has covered us with the robe of righteousness.

The Holy One has delivered us and has become our salvation.

*All praise to you, eternal Lord, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood,
Choosing a manger for your throne, while worlds on worlds are yours alone.
All this for us your love has done, by this to you our love is won,
For this we sing through all our days and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.*

We give thanks to you, eternal God, for the Word in human form given to us in the child of Bethlehem.

The Word speaks to us in a way we cannot avoid:

Therefore, let us put aside the masks of pretended righteousness and confess our sins to God.

Gracious God, this Advent season stirs a longing to have Christ come alive within us, yet we allow ourselves to become enslaved to cynicism, selfishness, and greed. In a season for freely giving and receiving, we tend to live by debt and obligation. We rush from task to task, scarcely opening our eyes to the peace and beauty around us. We glory in the visions of the old man Zechariah in the temple, which were fulfilled in his wife, Elizabeth, but our ministry to the elderly in our midst falls short. We sing of the One who

was laid in a borrowed manger, but we ignore the poor and homeless among us. We decry the violence of a wicked king, yet we are too often silent in the face of abuse and injustice around us. For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray, gracious God.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to them and proclaim that they have suffered long enough, that their penalty is paid, and their sins are forgiven.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Christ Jesus gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify a people of his own. Thanks be to God!

*Jesus came, adored by angels, came with peace from realms on high
Jesus came for our redemption, lowly came on earth to die.
Alleluia, alleluia! Came in deep humility.*

*Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care,
Jesus comes again in answer to our earnest heartfelt prayer:
Alleluia, alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.*

We believe in Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, who lived among us as foretold by the prophets, who was descended from the royal line of David, and who was baptized in the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might.

He does not judge by what his eyes see, nor decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he judges the poor and decides with equity for the meek of the earth.

We believe in the coming reign of God when justice will be established in the earth.

How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains who brings good news, the news of peace, who announces salvation who says, “Your God reigns.”

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 earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

*Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear!
Arise the sun so longed for, o’er this benighted sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we look O Lord to you
For all the earth’s redemption, creation made anew.*

Old Testament Prophecy	<i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i>	Sophie Garcia
A Life of Faith	<u><i>The True Story of St. Nicholas</i></u>	Pre-Recorded
The Reading of God’s Word	The Gospel Lesson for Today <i>Mark 1:1-8</i>	Dana Myers

Liturgical Prayer of Response

Christ, the Light of the world, empower us to shine as lights in this dark world of sin.

Christ, the Creative Word, by whom all things were made, lead us into good stewardship of creation that we and our children may preserve and enjoy the world entrusted to us.

Christ, the Living Truth, give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that sees beyond temporal values to discern your truth and to declare it.

Christ, our Righteous Judge, give us courage to stand by the poor, the meek, and the oppressed; and strengthen our support for all who are their advocates.

Christ, the Lamb of God, send us forth as your ambassadors of reconciliation in a broken and troubled world; bring peace to the conflicts of nations, races and tribes.

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that we might proclaim the mighty acts of God who called us out of darkness and into marvelous light. May our lives show forth that which we truly are. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

May the Lord make us increase in love for one another and for all.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen us to become more like Christ as we eagerly await his coming.

*We long for mighty signs of God,
cathedral, miracle, and sword,
his power and glory written plain
so none may doubt that he is Lord.*

*But poor in weakness comes the Christ;
his glory gone, no king we see;
a servant Lord, no praise he seeks.
thus comes God's power to you and me.*

*Not in our own strength, Lord, we move;
your kingdom falls not when we fall,
but forward presses day by day
until your truth is known by all.*

Our Response to God

Worship by Giving Dana Myers

Prayers for our Church, Community and World Allen Yoder

Prayer Response Donna Shore

Following Our Lamb Into the World

Ministry Opportunities Shirley Yoder

Hymn 276 *Veiled in Darkness Judah Lay*

*Veiled in darkness Judah lay, waiting for the
promised day, while across the shadowy night
streamed a flood of glorious light, heav'nly voices
hailed Christ's birth, "Peace, good will to all on earth."*

*Still the earth in darkness lies. Up from death's dark
vale arise voices of a world in grief
prayers of those who seek relief; to our darkness
bring new birth, "Peace, good will to all on earth."*

*Light of light, we humbly pray, shine upon your
world today; break the gloom of our dark night,
fill our souls with love and light, give your blessed
Word rebirth, "Peace, good will to all on earth."*

Benediction Dana Myers

Postlude *Fanfare (J. Lemmens)* Donna Shore

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Ruth Burcaw and Randy Nofle

Watchword Text for the Year

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. II Corinthians 4:15

In essentials UNITY, in non-essentials, LIBERTY, in all things, LOVE!

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