**1st Sunday of Advent- November 27, 2022**

**zion, philpsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples. We give thanks to the Creator for this great gift and recognize our responsibility as treaty people to care for the land and waters that nourish us and give us strength.

**CALL TO WORSHIP \***(inspired by Romans 13: 11-14 and Matthew 24: 36-44)

We are called to wake from sleep,

**to wake up and hear, to wake up and see.**

What has the Lord to show to us?

**A new life, a new world, a different set of priorities,**

freedom from the tyranny of desiring and acquiring.

**Wake up, wake up!**

Hear the invitation that echoes down the centuries.

**Welcome the Way of Christ and find freedom.**

**ADVENT LITANY and CANDLE LIGHTING**

**The Advent Wreath**

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of ever- lasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

**First Sunday of Advent**

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,

you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

*Please rise as you are able as we sing our gathering hymn, Christ be Our Light*

**GATHERING SONG*****Christ, Be Our Light* (ELW 715)**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.  
  
Refrain  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.  
  
2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. Refrain  
  
3 Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. Refrain  
  
4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. Refrain  
  
5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come. Refrain

**ANNOUNCEMENTS (ELW p. 221)**

Welcome to worship on this first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022. What a lovely day we had yesterday!

I am leading worship today as covid has hit Pastor’s Leanne household. Heather came down with covid yesterday morning, so out of an abundance of caution Pastor Leanne is staying home.

The Messenger is out, please look for it in your inbox, mailbox or your slot here at church.

Advent services begin at Trinity, NW this week. The soup supper begins at 5:30 followed by a service of song, candlelight, and word at 6:30. All are welcome

Join us here at Zion on December 18th for a Christmas carol sing and reflective service at 10:30. After the service all are invited downstairs for Christmas treats. Please bring a plate of treats to share.

Blanket blessing

When finished ask for any other announcements.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY \***

Let us pray.

Not when the mountains shake, or the seas roar, or the clouds part to reveal You,

Holy One, but here and now, on this one ordinary day, we will wait and watch

for You will surely come to us. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING:****Isaiah 2:1-5**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”*

1The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
2In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.  
  3Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
4He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.  
5O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 122- read responsively by whole verse**

1I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”  
 2**Now our feet are standing** **within your gates, O Jerusalem.**  
 3Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;  
 4**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,** **the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**  
 5For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.  
 6**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:** **“May they prosper who love you.**  
 7Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.  
 8**For the sake of my kindred and companions,** **I pray for your prosperity.**  
 9Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good.”

**SECOND READING:****Romans 13:11-14**

A reading from Romans.

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.*

11Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise for the reading of the gospel*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] 36“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

*Please rise as you are able as we sing our hymn of the day Wake, Awake for night is Flying.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*****Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (ELW 436)**

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,  
the watchmen on the heights are crying;  
awake, Jerusalem, at last.  
Midnight hears the welcome voices,  
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.  
The bridegroom comes! Awake;  
your lamps with gladness take!"  
Alleluia!  
Rise and prepare the feast to share;  
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.  
  
2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
and all her heart with joy is springing.  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.  
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,  
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:  
her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
Now come, O Blessed One,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.  
Sing hosanna!  
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
and follow to the banquet hall.  
  
3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!  
Let saints and angels sing before you,  
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,  
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,  
with angel choirs around your throne.  
No eye has caught the light,  
no ear the thund'ring might  
of such glory.  
There we will go: what joy we'll know!  
There sweet delight will ever flow.

*We continue with our prayers of intercession*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. *A brief silence.*

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth’s beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus’ birth Ukraine, Myanmar, Columbia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Mexico, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care Sarah, Anne, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Carole, Susan, Marg, Yvonne, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict especially Zion, St. Agatha. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.

**Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

For our folks at home, may peace be with you. Please share a sign of peace with your loved ones. If you live alone give someone a call to check in wishing them God’s peace as well.

Peace be with you everyone!

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive our gifts and make us messengers of your mercy and love

for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD: ADVENT**

Holy God,

the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait, we praise you for joining us to your people of old. We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness

and promise a new earth with peace for all. For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God.

We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord, who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world, and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.

For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God.

Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word. Nurture our faith with your grace,

accompany us with your might and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.

For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God.

All praise to you, holy God, today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

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**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

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

**BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*****Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! (MERTON)* (ELW 246)**

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
all you children of the day!"  
  
2 Wakened by the solemn warning,  
from earth's bondage let us rise;  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.  
  
3 See the Lamb, so long expected,  
come with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all, to be forgiv'n;  
  
4 So, when next he comes in glory  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.  
  
5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son  
with the everlasting Spirit  
while unending ages run!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated as we listen to our postlude.

\*Advent Litany written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community website. http://stillpointsa.org.au/prayer/prayers-and-liturgies/  
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