

*In Deepest Night*



December 16, 2020

# Gathering

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

## Welcome & Announcements

P: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, you have broken in pieces. O God, our renewer.”

*(Isaiah 9)*

**C: Generous and gracious God, we look to you for compassion and thank you for your presence this night. Overwhelmed by our burdens and the losses we have experienced, we easily forget that you never leave us alone and that your steadfast love for us never falters. For ourselves and our families we ask for peace with the past, strength for today, and courage for tomorrow. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow. Amen.**

## Call to Confession

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*(Silence for reflection)*

## Prayer of Confession

P: Loving and Forgiving God,

**C: We confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

## Forgiveness

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Greeting

P: The Grace 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.**

**Anthem**            **“Somewhere in Your Silent Night” – Hall, Herms & West**            **Soloist**

## **Word**

*God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching, and Song.*

**Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 28-31**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 121**

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.

*Responsive hum*

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor  
will the one who watches over you fall  
asleep.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;

*Responsive hum*

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

*Responsive hum*

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD will watch over your going out and  
your coming in, from this time forth  
forevermore.

*Responsive hum*

**Reading: John 1:1-5,14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Love Has Come**

1 Love has come—a light in the  
darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem  
skies.

See, all heaven has come to  
proclaim it;

hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a

Savior!

Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

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P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Gospel: John 14:26-27

<sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

### Hymn of the Day

### “Christ, Be Our Light”

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.<br>Longing for truth, we turn to you.<br>Make us your own, your holy people,<br>light for the world to see.                      | <i>Refrain</i><br>Christ, be our light!<br>Shine in our hearts.<br>Shine through the darkness.<br>Christ, be our light!<br>Shine in your church gathered today.    |
| 2 Longing for peace, our world is<br>troubled.<br>Longing for hope, many despair.<br>Your word alone has pow'r to save us.<br>Make us your living voice.<br><i>Refrain</i> | 5 Many the gifts, many the people,<br>many the hearts that yearn to belong.<br>Let us be servants to one another,<br>signs of your kingdom come.<br><i>Refrain</i> |

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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### A Liturgy of Remembering

P: The first Candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember. We remember their name, their face, their voice, the memories that bind them to us in this season.

C: May God's eternal love surround them.

P: The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of celebrations and gatherings during the pandemic, the loss of jobs, the loss of relationships, the loss of health. We pause to gather. We gather up the pain and grief of our losses and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

**C: Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us in the your future.**

P: The third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause to give thanks. We give thanks and remember these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and the handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for the support we have known.

**C: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.**

P: The fourth candle is lit to give light to our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We pause and remember. We remember that God who shares our life promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

**C: Let us remember the one who shows the way, who brings the truth, and who bears the light.**

P: These lights in their brightness are only symbols, but as they burn and finally go out, we remember that suffering passes, through memory remains forever.

Prayers of the People

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**Offering Prayer**

P: Generous God,

**C: you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

*If you will be taking Holy Communion today, please place your bread/crackers and juice in front of you. They will be blessed during the Words of Institution.*

P: When we worship in our sanctuary, we gather around the altar/table to receive Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine. In this meal our faith is nourished, our sins are forgiven, and we are called to be witnesses to the Gospel. Today we gather in

Jesus' name, in our homes, knowing that the church is anywhere people gather in the name of Jesus. Today we receive the Lord's Supper, united with one another and those who believe in every time and place.

### **Words of Institution**

### **"Remember Me"**

On the night You were betrayed, You took the bread;  
After giving thanks, You broke it and said,

Refrain:

"This is My body, broken for you, and as you eat it, remember Me;  
This is My body, broken for you, and as you eat it, remember Me."

On the night You were betrayed, You held the cup:  
After giving thanks, You lifted it up.

Refrain:

"This is My blood, poured out for you, and as you drink it, remember Me;  
This is My blood, poured out for you, and as you drink it, remember Me."

So, we thank You for the wine and for bread;  
For we see the life You gave the blood You shed.

Refrain:

"And we remember Your wondrous love,  
You gave Your body, You shed Your blood;  
And we remember Your wondrous love,  
You gave Your body, You shed Your blood."

The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Communion**

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Benediction

Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**Senior Pastor:** Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner

**Director of Music Ministry:** Shannon Stuckey

**Education Ministries Coordinator:** Lindsay Medina

**Business Administrator:** MaryLu Anderson

**Soloist:** Megan Hietala

**Associate Pastor:** Dave Nissen

**Office Administrator:** Jen Geiger

**Facilities Manager:** Scott Kathman

**Pianist:** Shannon Stuckey



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Sunday at 8:30AM

**New Ulm Community Access TV**

Comcast Ch. 14 & Nuvera Ch. 3:

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