

Festive

Traditional Worship Service



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023 ♦ 11:00 A.M



GATHERING

Prelude – “St. Botolph,” Esther Bersweden

Welcome

+Call to Worship

We gather today.

It is time to worship!

We listen for God

It is time to hear!

We receive God's grace.

It is time to be loved!

We leave in peace.

It is time to serve others!

As we wait for Jesus' arrival,
Emmanuel, God-with-us,
is already here in this time and place.

+Prayer of Confession

People of God,
when we think that we have nowhere left to turn,
we can always turn to God.
Whether we feel frozen
or are rushing with no time to rest,
whether it feels like life is happening to us too quickly
or like our lives will never change,
God is with us.
For God, there is always time for forgiveness.
We trust God, and we confess our sins together.

Holy One,

We have not stayed awake.

**We have missed you when you appeared
in our neighbors,
in strangers half a world away,
in the suffering planet.**

**We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us
and assumed we were powerless to mend
the breaches in our world.**

**Sometimes, we even gave up
on your mercy, justice, and love.**

God, is it too late for us?

Speak tenderly to our anxious hearts.

**Tear open the heavens
and heal what we have done.**

Amen.

People of God,
God's judgment is certain
and God's forgiveness is lightning fast.
Hear this good news:
in the name of Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven.
Forgiveness gives us the courage we need.
Wherever we wait for God's time to come,
we will witness wonders.

Amen.

+Peace

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

+Gathering Hymn – ELW, No. 688, “Lord of Light,” *sts. 1, 3, 4*



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Refrain
Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
Text © Union of Welsh Independents
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

+Greeting

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.

Song for Advent – “Out of Time,” Linnéa K. Clark, Emily Trubey-Weller



1. Out of time, out of space, now we hope for bet - ter days, keep - ing
2. Time flows fast; make it slow, give more time for all we love. Time grows
3. When the earth yearns for peace and the peo - ple cry for bread with a



watch when the wait - ing wears us down. Drawn out thin, pulled in tight, search - ing
long; turn our wait - ing to its end. In our years, in our days, God, your
hun - ger that you a - lone can fill, we will pray, we will work, we will



for the break of day, will we ev - er find you draw - ing near?
good - ness is at work. Can it be you might be draw - ing near?
all pre - pare the way, and in time we find you draw - ing near.

Refrain



You come to us from just be - yond, you call to us from out of time,



you tear the heav - ens op - en wide, shin - ing love a - cross the star - lit sky.

Lighting the Advent Candle

+Prayer of the Day

WORD

Kidtalk

Anthem – “Keep Your Lamps,” arr. Andre Thomas

Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

+Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

+Gospel – Matthew 25:1–13

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – ELW, No. 436, “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: “Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!”
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

+Apostles' Creed

+Prayers of Intercession

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

We give thanks together for all God's gifts as we offer them back to God.
To every prompt, I invite you to respond with this simple phrase: "Thank you"...

...We pray in the name of Jesus, who appears wherever people need our help.

Amen.

Offering Music – "The Sacred Hour," Felix Mendelssohn, arr. George Blake

+Great Thanksgiving

Dialog

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

God our Creator ... we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

The time is now! Taste and see God's goodness!

Amen.

Communion

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn – ELW, No. 487, “What Feast of Love”

1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?

What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance,

with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

Sending Hymn – ELW, No. 815 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light,” *sts. 1, 3*



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

Announcements

Blessing

God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you. God blesses you.

God blesses you.

Jesus our Redeemer, who arrives at just the right time, blesses you. Jesus blesses you.

Jesus blesses you.

The Holy Spirit our Enlivener, who sparks hope for the hopeless, blesses you. The Holy Spirit blesses you.

The Holy Spirit blesses you.

You are blessed in the name of God the Three in One.

Amen.

Sending

As you leave this place, remember:
even when you travel through uncertainty,
God travels with you.
Keep alert; trust God; seek peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude –” An American Trumpet Tune,” Gilbert M. Martin

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tim Lemme

Preaching Minister: Pastor Justin Kosec

Piano: Christopher Larson

Choir: Our Savior’s Choir, directed by Gene LeVasseur, accompanied by
Christopher Larson

Reader: Carolyn Dick

Media: Harold Breitag

Sound: Andy Steinhouse

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About the Series *Out of Time*

Just what is God doing when it comes to time and to us? *Out of Time* explores responses inspired by the Revised Common Lectionary texts. Through the following themes, the series invites reflection on how people experience time and on how God uses our experience to meet us, challenge us, bless us, shape us, and call us into holy endings and new beginnings.

November 12: Uncertain Time

November 19: Time Is Relative

November 26: In Our Time

December 3: Running Out of Time

December 10: Time Flies

December 17: Dreamlike Time

December 24: Out of Time

Christmas Eve: No Time

Christmas Day: The End Time Is the Beginning

At its heart, this series explores two senses of being *out of time*. Advent thrusts upon us the reality that time is limited. We run out of time to reconcile, to prepare, to make a change. Yet even as we are running out of time, God is outside of time entirely. God’s infinite being and infinite patience cut through our fear as God enters human time to dwell with us: *Emmanuel*, God-with-us.

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