



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALVARY Lutheran Church  
480 MONTEREY AVE.  
MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA  
Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday in Advent



**PRELUDE**

**John Cribb**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Pastor Brian Stein-Webber**

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who opens the heavens  
and draws near to us with salvation.

**Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.  
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God,  
**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**  
**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness**  
**that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**  
**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**  
**We choose comfort over courage.**  
**We are careless with creation's bounty.**  
**Look upon us with mercy.**  
**Turn our hearts again to you.**  
**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways**  
**for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:  
God clothes you with garments of salvation  
and covers you with robes of righteousness.  
In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
God's covenant is eternal,  
and God's blessing rests upon us all.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING     Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn #242**  
**(red hymnal, rear section)**

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.**  
**Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.**  
**Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,**  
**he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel come a-singing,**  
**his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with it ringing;**  
**music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving-kindness,**  
**the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
 as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,  
 the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,  
 the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;  
 may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

#### **GREETING**

The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

#### **KYRIE**

**Now the Feast and Celebration booklet p. 3**

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
 for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

For your people here who have come to give you praise,  
 for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, and defend us, O God.  
**A---men.**

#### **NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION**

**NTFAC booklet p. 4**

#### **REFRAIN**

**Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy  
 to the God of life and love and freedom;  
 praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
 whose blood has freed and united us  
 to be one great people of God.**

#### **REFRAIN**

**Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
 all honor and glory to Christ, forever.  
 REFRAIN**

**For God has come to dwell with us,  
 to make us people of God;  
 to make all things new.**

#### **REFRAIN**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Let us pray together.

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**SONG**            **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #240 (verse 3)**  
**(red hymnal, rear section)**

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

*(The congregation will read the **bold** words.)*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;  
 God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,  
 to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;  
 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;  
 to comfort all who mourn;

**to provide for those who mourn in Zion—**

**to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
 the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.**

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
 the planting of the Lord, to display God's glory.

**They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;  
 they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.**

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
 and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

**Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
 and their offspring among the peoples;**

all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;

**for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation, God has covered me with the robe of  
 righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her  
 jewels.**

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**LUKE 61:46b-55**

*(The congregation responds with the **bold** words)*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.**

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

**You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

**You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.**

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

**the promise made to our forebears,**

**to Abraham and Sarah and their children forever.**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*(The congregation reads the **bold** words.)*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Do not quench the Spirit.**

Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good;

**abstain from every form of evil.**

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**The one who calls you is faithful, and will do this.**

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Celtic Alleluia #174**

**(red hymnal, rear section)**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Gospel Lesson: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

The gospel lesson for this Third Sunday in Advent is from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Gospel of John, beginning with the 6<sup>th</sup> verse.

**Glory to you, O God.**

*(The congregation shall read the **bold** words.)*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

**He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.**

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,

**“Who are you?”**

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.”

And they asked him, **“What then? Are you Elijah?”**

**He said, “I am not.”**

**“Are you the prophet?”**

He answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, **“Who are you?**

**Let us have an answer for those who sent us.**

**What do you say about yourself?”**

He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

They asked him,

**“Why then are you baptizing**

**if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?”**

John answered them,

“I baptize with water.

Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me;

I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the gospel indeed!

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Brian**

**SERMON HYMN**

**Blessed Be the God of Israel #250  
(red hymnal, rear section)**

**Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David’s tree.  
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.**

**With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all,  
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise  
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.**

**My child as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,  
to tell God’s people they are saved from sin’s eternal sway.  
Then shall God’s mercy from on high shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

## APOSTLE'S CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief, especially,

- Katie Edson and family who lost their mother on November 28
- Joyce Bauer – In hospital to rid fluid from her lungs
- Elaine Grawe
- Nancy Padilla – multiple dental procedures
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Robin Karas – Home from Bayside and recovering
- Christian – Heidi Carney's son – dealing with multiple ailments
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello's sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- Wes, brother of John Cribb – facing the choice between kidney dialysis and kidney transplant

- Byron Nelson - friend of Jacoby's - Cancer
- Mike Johnson - lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter – dealing with frontal temporal lobe dementia and aphasia.
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport – preparing to move to assisted living
- Aaron Brochtrup - for perseverance and patience while he works to recover from his injuries
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas – learning to live with condition
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- James Hecker- undergoing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for serious infection
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting COVID
- For an end to the war in Ukraine
- For the earthquake victims in Afghanistan
- For the people of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of senseless gun violence
- For George Tway, Ina Davenport and Brenda Pool who celebrate their birthdays this week

Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You know each one of us and all for whom we care, so we now pray for those whom we have not named yet, who are in need of our support and intercession, especially,

*[You may name out loud or in your heart, those who are on your hearts, this morning.]*

Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**  
 Let us share that peace with one another.

## **OFFERING SONG**

**Create in Me a Clean Heart #186**  
**(red hymnal, rear section)**



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
 Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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, HOLY, HOLY**

NTFAC booklet p. 11

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;  
 heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is the one who comes in your name.  
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it  
 and gave it to his disciples saying,  
 "Take and eat, this is my body given for you.  
 Do this in remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
 "Drink this, all of you. It is the new covenant of my blood,  
 shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this in remembrance of me.'

Let us pray the prayer that our Lord 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.**

## **TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ. Gluten-free bread is available if you ask for it, and alcohol-free grape juice is in the center ring of the tray. During the distribution of Communion, you may also seek prayers of healing at the chair by the baptismal font.]*

*You are invited to bring to the altar pictures or names of loved ones, to exemplify that whole hosts of believers who have come and will come to the table of blessing.]*

**COMMUNION HYMN      Wait for the Lord #262 (red hymnal, rear section)**

**REFRAIN**

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.**

**Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.**

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**THANKS BE TO YOU**

**NTFAC booklet p. 15**

**Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!**

**Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!**

**From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!**

**Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!**

**Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,  
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

**Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!**

**Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!**

**Thanks be to you forever!**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together:

**Generous God,**

**in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.**

**Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim**

**your good news of liberation and release,**

**brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope,

and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN      Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus #254 (red hymnal, rear section)**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
 from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;  
 born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
 by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

John Cribb

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Thank you to:

- **Katie Edson** for being worship assistant.
- **John Cribb** for accompanying.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Joyce Bauer, Nikki Rocha and Kathie Sperow** for preparing communion.
- **Janet Lorenzo** and others for streaming worship.
- **Janet Lorenzo and Gail Brochtrup** for editing and assembling bulletins and the newsletter.
- **Nancy Padilla**, for setting up and welcoming.
- **Gary and Mark Orback**, for tending to our outside property.
- **Sophia and Janet Lorenzo**, for tending to our inside property.
- **Ken Brocks, Dan Sperow, Andrew Jacoby, Mike Lorenzo and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.
- **The Church Council**, for leading our congregation.

Events this week:

- **The discussion group on The Chosen** will not meet until January 7, 2024.
- **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** will be on Zoom on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:30 am. If you want to join, please speak with Pastor Brian and he will send you an invitation. Next Sunday's Bible passages will be 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38
- **No Bible Study** until January 3.
- Gifts or donations for **Project Angel Tree** for Iglesia Santa Cruz are due at church Today!
- If you are planning for Christmas worship, **Christmas Eve** worship will be on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, and **Christmas Day** worship will be on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. There **will** be **Advent worship** on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> in the morning at 10:00 am.
- Let Pastor Brian know if you would like to **start receiving his weekly emails**. (bsteinwebber@gmail.com)

Don't forget to check the Calendar website page for upcoming events: [morrobaylutherans.org](http://morrobaylutherans.org)