

ADVENT SERVICE 12.9.18

Leaders: Lee, Dora, Kim, Tom, Mike

Before the Service

6:15 Set Up (Lee)

The chairs will be set up in the sanctuary and the lighting will be adjusted

6:30 Preparations (all)

The team will arrive to help with last minute adjustments: set up, folding programs, set up and lighting of candles, etc.

Foyer

Doors to the sanctuary will be closed.

Signs reading “Welcome to a Quiet Space” will be placed on the doors to the sanctuary.

Podium with printed programs will be in the foyer by the doors.

Pre-Service Music (Lee)

The Advent Taizé CD “Wait for the Lord” from 6:45-7:05 pm through Lee’s computer and Bluetooth speaker

Images on Screen (Lee)

We will project images on the screen for the duration of the service.

During the Service

7:00 Welcome (Lee)

Reading of the welcome that is printed on the front of the program.

7:02 Song (Mike)

All My Heart Lies Open To You

All my heart lies open to you,
and you know Lord that I love you

7:06 Opening up to God (Lee)

An introduction to the theme: Open my heart to you, O Lord.

The theme tonight is Opening Up to God. Mary is an example of our theme. If you look at the painting on the annunciation that is projected on the screen you'll notice Mary responding to the angel's announcement that she will bear the Christ child. She looks a little unsure about this starting announcement. But she is also leaning in. She is practicing active listening trying to discern the voice of the Lord. If you find your mind wandering tonight, look to Mary and lean in again to listen for God's words to you. If distracted, simply look to Mary and lean in again.

Begin again.

Silence (30 seconds)

7:08 Opening Prayer (Kim)

A voice cries In the wilderness "prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

As we pray together tonight,

Let us ready ourselves to welcome God in our hearts,
in our community, and in all of creation.

Amen.

Silence (1 minute)

7:10 Responsive Reading (Tom & Kim)

Father, as we enter this season of Advent we come scattered. It is difficult to focus on the coming of your son Jesus into our lives. We yearn for your presence to not only break into the world, but into our lives.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

At times our hearts feel closed to you.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the midst of our worries, loneliness, strained relationships, illness, and grief.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the midst of the hollowness of our consumer society, we find it difficult to share the good news of the coming of Jesus.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

Deliver us from aimless chatter and from fear of silence. Open my heart to you, O Lord. In this season of heightened demands and expectations we yearn for your peace.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the midst of the frenzy of purchasing gifts, visiting friends and family, and arranging activities.

Open my heart, O Lord.

As we find ourselves surrounded by pressures at work or lack of work.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the midst of a suffering world with so many fleeing and seeking refuge, like Mary & Joseph long ago.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the same way that you prepared Mary and Joseph's hearts for the birth of Jesus.
Open my heart to you, O Lord.

Silence (1 minute)

7:12 Scripture Reading (Dora)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

7:14 Candle Lighting (Helmut)

Lighting of the large center candle.

7:15 Song (Mike)

All My Heart Lies Open To You

All my heart lies open to you,
and you know Lord that I love you

Silence (1-2 minutes)

7:19 Lectio Divina (Tom)

Luke 1:46-55 The Voice

My soul lifts up the Lord!
My spirit celebrates God, my Liberator!

For though I'm God's humble servant,
God has noticed me.

Now and forever,
I will be considered blessed by all generations.

For the Mighty One has done great things for me;
holy is God's name!

From generation to generation,
God's lovingkindness endures
For those who revere Him.

God's arm has accomplished mighty deeds.
The proud in mind and heart,
God has sent away in disarray.

The rulers from their high positions of power,
God has brought down low.

And those who were humble and lowly,
God has elevated with dignity.

The hungry—God has filled with fine food.
The rich—God has dismissed with nothing in their hands.

To Israel, God's servant,
God has given help,
As promised to our ancestors,
remembering Abraham and his descendants
in mercy forever.

1. Come to silence held in God's presence. ☒
2. Listen to the word of God. ☒As the passage is read twice, listen for the word or phrase that strikes you. Following the reading there will be a short time of silence. During the silence repeat that phrase softly or silently to yourself. ☒
3. Ask "What resonates in this word? Draws me in or raises questions?" As the passage is read again, consider how this word or phrase connects to your life at present.☒
4. Ask "Is there an invitation in this word? An action for me to take?" The passage is read a fourth time as we listen for God's invitation to respond.

Silence (2 minutes)

7:25 Song: *Wait for the Lord* (Mike)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7GexlvX8HU>

*Wait for the Lord, his day is near
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart*

Silence (30 seconds)

7:28 Poem (Kim)

For Longing by John O'Donohue

Blessed be the longing that brought you here
And quickens your soul with wonder.

May you have the courage
to listen to the voice of desire
That disturbs you when you
have settled for something safe.

May you have the wisdom to enter
generously into your own unease
To discover the new direction your
longing wants you to take.

May the forms of your belonging-in love,
creativity, and friendship-
Be equal to the grandeur
and the call of your soul.

May your dreams gradually
reveal the destination of your desire.
May a secret Providence
guide your thought
and nurture your feeling.

May you come to accept
your longing as divine urgency.

May you know the urgency
with which God longs for you.

Silence (3 minutes)

7:32 Paper Opening (Lee)

During Advent we ready ourselves to welcome Christ afresh in our hearts. You are now invited to come, as you feel led, and pick up a folded piece of paper from the centre. When seated, prayerfully unfold the paper as a symbolic gesture of opening your heart to God. Contemplate the word(s) at the center of the paper. Ponder how this word might intersect with your life. How might it be good news to the world today?

When prompted we will share the word(s) with others by passing the mic and simply reading them aloud.

Instrumental Music (*after one minute of silence*) –3 minutes (Mike)

7:38 Reading of the words of hope (All)

7:42 *O little town of bethlehem* (Mike)

Silence – 3 minutes

7:47pm Silent Reflection & Invitation to prayer (Lee)

In a moment I will offer a brief benediction.
After the benediction you are free to linger quietly in this space
to pray and to savour any of the images
or words that have shimmered for you tonight.

7:50pm Benediction (Lee)

But now, I'd like to leave us with a Benedictino adapted from a prayer by Luci Shaw.

Just as you have opened your envelope. Imagine your heart open to God

As we leave this place, may we know,
as those who love God
and learn towards God,
that we, too, are pregnant with Christ
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This Advent season, day by day,
may our sense of God in us
Be enlarged.

May God
augment our hope,
and widen our imagination,
To conceive the miracle of
"Christ in us, the hope of glory"
Amen

Invitation to prayer and reflection.

After the Service

8:00 Clean Up (all who are able)