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**We Gather in God's Name**

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**As We Prepare for Worship**

I have come to believe that our lives can be turned in a different direction, our minds adopt a different way of thinking, by some significant, though small event. That belief can be frightening, or exhilarating, depending on whether you just contemplate it or do something with it. – *Howard Zinn*

**Prelude** “Creator of the Stars of Night” 9<sup>th</sup> c. chant, arr. Jones

**Choral Introit** “Celtic Advent Carol” Angerman & Barrett

**\*Gathering Words** *Luke 1:68-75 (CEB)*

Bless the Lord God of Israel who has come to help and has delivered the people.

**God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the servant David's house, just as was said through the mouths of the Lord's holy prophets long ago.**

God has brought salvation from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us.

**The Lord has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered the holy covenant, the solemn pledge made to our ancestor Abraham.**

The Lord has granted that we would be rescued from the power of our enemies so that we could serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes, for as long as we live.

**Bless the Lord God of Israel who has come to help and has delivered us.**

**\*Gathering Song #88** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verses 1-4

## **Call to Prayer**

In this time in-between the darkness of what was and the light that will come, we offer our prayers to God.

## **Our Prayer of Anxiety and Peace** –*from Luke 1:77-79*

In the darkness, we hear the prophet John proclaiming that the Lord Most High is coming. But consumed with the darkness, we often fail to hear the prophet’s words.

**We believe that the night will never end.**

Immanuel, you brought us the knowledge of salvation and the forgiveness of our sins. But like so much of the knowledge of you, it seems out of our reach. It is a mystery we cannot accept. Instead, we believe only what we can prove.

**We explain away your miracles as coincidence or our own creation. Not believing that grace is freely given, we try to achieve our own salvation.**

But this leaves us anxious, for in our heart we know that your peace cannot be manufactured.

**It is a gift from God.**

Because of our God’s deep compassion, the Dawn from heaven broke upon us, giving light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Sweet Jesus, once more, guide us on the path of peace.**

*silent confession*

Amen.

## **Words of Light** *Psalm 27:1, 13 (CEB)*

The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

**We remain confident of this: We will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

Today we light a candle recognizing the light of peace in an anxious world. It is the knowledge of our salvation.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**Our Response #113** “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*refrain*)

### **The Peace**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

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### **God’s Word Comes Alive**

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**Prayer for Illumination** *Luke 1:76, 79*

Holy Spirit, speak the light of your Word in this place, giving us knowledge of our salvation, so that the peace of Christ would transform our lives and the world. Amen.

**A Reading from the Gospels** *Luke 1:68-79 (NRSV)*

- <sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.  
<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup> that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand  
of all who hate us.  
<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being rescued from the hands of our  
enemies, might serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of  
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

## **Choral Anthem**

“Christmas Is Coming”

Raney

## **A Reading from the Epistles** Philippians 2:1-5 (NRSV)

**2** If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,...

## **Message**

“If... Then”

Rev. Michelle Henrichs

## **Our Shared Life**

*Welcome, members, guests and residents of Tudor Oaks! We hope that you will join us again soon. Please sign the red fellowship folder as it is passed and read the announcements in the bulletin.*

*If you have an announcement, please alert the liturgist, who will bring the microphone to you.*

## **Joys and Concerns**

## **Prayers of the People**

## **Lord’s Prayer**

*(Please use whichever words are most familiar to you.)*

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## God's Gifts Are Recognized with Thanks

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### Call to Offering

As those who have received the peace of Christ, let us bring our offerings so that we might share that peace with the world.

### Offertory

“Rondeau Carol”

Cooman

### \*Doxology #117

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night” *verse 6*

### \*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

God of all people, we bring our offerings of peace and well-being that they might bring your light into the world.

Specifically, we pray for the family at 4078 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Richard and his family as they celebrate the season as homeowners. May the welcome baskets we give them in your name bear your presence in their lives. Amen.

### \*Sending Song “O God, We Hear Your Word of Grace”

*Words printed below.*

*Sing to the tune of “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.”*

O God, we hear your word of grace;  
The Psalmist tells us this:  
That love and faith will soon embrace  
And peace and justice kiss.  
Then all will sing out, "God is good!"  
Then harvests will increase.  
And we will listen, loving Lord,  
As you proclaim your peace.

The world proclaims a different word  
How can these things be so?  
For all around this hurting earth

The seeds of discord grow.  
When war and conflict, greed and pride  
Would claim our loyalty,  
Too often we have turned aside  
From what we're called to be.

Lord, show us what we're called to do  
As we await your day.  
For waiting well means serving, too,  
And walking in Christ's way.  
Now by your Spirit, may we be  
The bearers of your grace,  
Till peace and justice both shall meet  
And love and faith embrace.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**      “Wexford Carol”      English melody, arr. Wellman



You may wish to be seated for the postlude and then stay for  
coffee and fellowship.

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**Today & This Week at Heritage**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

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|            |                     |                        |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.  | Choir rehearsal     |                        |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship:            | Rev. Michelle Henrichs |
|            | Liturgist:          | Jan Tesch              |
|            | Ushers/Greeters:    | Sara Pforr             |
|            |                     | Glenn & Gigi Sheridan  |
|            | Set-up / Take-down: | Ron Kohler & helpers   |
| 11:00 a.m. | Fellowship time     |                        |
|            | Refreshments:       | Brandy Bohman          |

**Monday**

7:00 p.m. Service of Advent Longing, Olive Wood Theater

**Saturday**

10:00 a.m. Instrumental and choral rehearsal, Olive Wood Theater

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**Sunday, Dec. 16**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Bring Your Grandchild to Worship**

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9:15 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Worship: Rev. Michelle Henrichs  
Liturgist: Brandy Bohman  
Ushers/Greeters: Jane Arloszynski  
Jeanne Musolf  
Guy & Louise Osborn  
Set-up / Take-down: Ron Kohler & helpers

11:00 a.m. Fellowship time:  
Refreshments: Jan Tesch

**A Visit with the Pastor**

Pastor Michelle is in the office on Tuesday afternoons (except the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) from 2:00 - 4:30. If you would like a visit with Pastor Michelle at another time, please contact her at 262-488-5100 or [mahenrichs@gmail.com](mailto:mahenrichs@gmail.com). You may also leave a message with the church office at 414-425-2050.

**Prayer Concerns and Celebrations**

*Each week, we remember two families in prayer. We thank God for them, ask God’s blessing upon them and God’s presence with them. Please keep these highlighted families and the other listed people and places in your personal prayers throughout the week.*

Highlighted Families: Judi Fellows  
Jeanne Ripple

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Presbytery of Des Moines, IA  
The people of Cambodia

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Iraq

Birthdays: Dec. 9 Dale Pforr  
Dec. 11 Karen Anderson  
Dec. 11 Tyler Symes

**In Our Prayers**

*This week's prayer list:*

Steve Seeker's friend Chuck was diagnosed with cancer last month and began chemo this week.

Glenn and Gigi Sheridan have friends whose house was damaged by the earthquake in Alaska.

Jan Tesch's brother Richard has acquired e. coli and is hospitalized. His condition is complicated because he has diabetes with kidney issues.

Jeanne and Ken Musolf both had surgery this past week. They offer thanksgiving for their wonderful support and care network.

Prayers for Tudor Oaks residents hospitalized last week.

Prayers requested for those in the Health Center facing difficulties as they age.

*Our on-going prayer list:*

Karen Anderson, Roxanne Lawrence, Jean Ripple, Steve Seeker, Jane Arloszynski's brother Earl Duckwall.

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**Announcements**

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In case a Tudor Oaks resident needs assistance, please notify the Nursing Station in the Health Center or the Front Desk or call 1-414-529-0100.

*The Wired Word Update*

The Wired Word will not meet during December. Starting January 6, we will be changing our meeting time and place to 11:15 in the Olive Wood Theater.

### *Pastor's Bible Study Update*

The Bible Study group meets at 1:00 p.m. every Tuesday of the month except the third Tuesday. The group will not meet on Dec. 18, Dec. 25, or Jan. 1, but will resume on Jan. 8. For more information, please contact Pastor Michelle at [mahenrichs@gmail.com](mailto:mahenrichs@gmail.com).

### *Service of Advent Longing, Dec. 10*

The Christmas season is one of bright lights and decorations, family and friends, and good food. However, in the midst of being merry and bright during the Christmas season, the truth is that many of us are feeling anything but that. Our annual Service of Advent Longing provides sacred space for the stress, anxiety, family, health problems, politics, financial pressures, or the other weighty matters of our lives as we prepare to celebrate the Word becoming flesh even as we look forward to the final redemption of Creation. Please join us (and maybe even invite a friend) as we worship together on Monday, December 10 at 7:00 pm.

### *Bring Your Grandchild to Worship Sunday, Dec. 16*

Our worship service on the third week of Advent will be a participatory service for children of all ages. Bring your grandchild – and your inner child – to worship!

### *Instrumental and Choral Rehearsal for Advent/Christmas*

Saturday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m. - noon in the Olive Wood Theater.

### *Christmas Eve Service*

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus with us on Monday, Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the Olive Wood Theater. Worship will include candlelight, carols, beautiful choral music and the festive sounds of brass.