

November 27th 2022
Portage Lake United Church

First Sunday of Advent



Lectionary Year A
Liturgical Color: Purple/Blue

Welcome and Announcements

We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- Angel Mission is one of Portage Health Foundation's Giving Tuesday organizations. The Giving Tuesday website is available for details and instructions on how to make your donation from now until the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Please remember Angel Mission on Giving Tuesday.
- Advent Services will be held at PLUC (with Good Shepherd joining us) starting November 30th. Soup and bread at 6:15 with a service at 7:00.
- Next Sunday we will be greening the church. Come with all your holiday spirit as we make God's house ready for the coming of the baby Jesus.
- There is information about Angel Mission Christmas gifts for children on the table in the lounge.
- If you would like a poinsettia for Christmas this year, there is a sign up sheet in the lounge. They will be \$22.00 each this year and orders will be due by December 11th.
- Capital Campaign results as of November 13, 2022 -Pledged (15 pledges or gifts) \$34,100.00, Received \$10,043.00

Flowers today are provided by Rick vonBatchelder in memory of loved ones.



Are there any other announcements?

Serving This Morning

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeter: Beth Smock

Reader: Lois Jambekar

Prayer Writer: Greg Campbell

Coffee: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague

*A reminder for those at home to **mute your microphones** during the non-interactive portions of the service*

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

We begin reasoning that since Christ has not returned yet, why think about it? But the truth is that at the very best, our lives are short and soon we will have reached our destination, whether Jesus Christ will have returned in cosmic unfolding or not.

Rueben P. Job



GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

+ Call to Worship in Song “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

The image shows a musical score for a call to worship. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are: "1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with clear lyrics underneath.

✦ Lighting of Advent Candles

The world says, "All is lost."

God says, "All is loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying."

The light says, "The fire is catching."

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

As we light our first Advent candle,

we pray for holy hope of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Hope.

All: **Be our light in darkness.**



✦ Gathering Hymn "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Moon" #91 GREEN

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ADVENT

91 Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

G Am7 G/B C D

1 A - wake! A - wake and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

G/B C Am7 D7 G Am7

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less. The ris - ing sun shall

G/B C D G/B Am7 D C G

soon* he is born. Be - hold! the child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing:
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

* May be sung during the Christmas season by changing stanza 1, line 3 "soon" to "now."

D D/F# G D Em Em/D Am/C D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts - to -
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap - in
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness. The thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry. May God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G Am7 ¹⁻³ G/B C ⁴ G/B C G

lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text and music: Marty Haugen (b. 1950)
© 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

98 98 87 89
REJOICE REJOICE

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of eternal love and master of glorious, simple, unexpected gifts for you children, today marks the beginning of our waiting time—our anticipation of a great festival in honor of your decision to save the world through your son. We cast aside now our feverish pace and open our pressured lives to the first sounds of your promises. Helps us to be quiet enough to hear your voice and eager enough to catch every word of grace, love and peace. In the name of Jesus, whose coming we await. Amen.

+ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, we are steeped in a world of violence.

**War is one of the first things we learn,
and we let it work its way into our lives.**

**Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams,
and we become accustomed to cruelty.**

Forgive us.

**Wrest our weapons from our hands,
and show us how beautiful life can be
when you forge them into instruments of peace.**

+ Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloved, know this:
the God of Presence,
the God of Transformation,
the God of Peace,
hears our prayers
and gives us power to love.

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!



Church of the Light
Tadao Ando Ibaraki, Japan

+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were baptized into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.



WORD



Christ our Light

Isaiah 2:1-5

2:1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2:2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

2:3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

2:5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

ADVENT

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Lost in the Night

1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;

long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,

plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.
bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.

Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon! Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859–1943, alt.
Music: Finnish folk tune

Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

LOST IN THE NIGHT
11 11 11 55

Romans 13:11-14

13:11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

13:12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

13:13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

13:14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

✦ HYMN “Prepare The Way of the Lord” #105 GREEN

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Round

Capo 1

① Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) ② Ab(G) Eb(D) ③

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and

Ab(G) Eb(D) ④ Ab(G) Eb(D)

all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a round in 6/8 time, written in G minor. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a dotted quarter note F4, and then eighth notes E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. Above the staff are guitar chords: Eb(D) above the first measure, Ab(G) above the second, Eb(D) above the third, Ab(G) above the fourth, and Eb(D) above the fifth. The first measure is circled with the number 1. The second staff continues the melody with eighth notes G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, followed by a dotted quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, and a dotted quarter note E2. Above the staff are guitar chords: Ab(G) above the first measure, Eb(D) above the second, Ab(G) above the third, and Eb(D) above the fourth. The fourth measure is circled with the number 4. The lyrics are: "Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -".

Text: Isaiah 40:3; 52:10 Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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✚ GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44

24:36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 24:37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 24:38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 24:39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 24:40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 24:41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 24:42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 24:43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon



Offering



To make a gift to the ministry of PLUC [click here.](#)

ADVENT

People, Look East

12

Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)
As in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964

BESANÇON 8.7.9.8.8.7

French folk melody
Harm. Martin Shaw (1875–1958)

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is plant-ed
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, Trim the
 there: Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, That in
 filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for
 brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, Bright as

Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day:
 hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:
 course the flower may flour - ish.
 fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo-ple, look east:

Love the guest is on the way.
 Love the rose is on the way.
 Love the bird is on the way.
 Love the star is on the way.
 Love is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth With the word, the Lord is coming.
 Christ who brings new life to earth. People, look east and sing today:
 Set every peak and valley humming Love the Lord is on the way.

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 Music: Harmonization © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

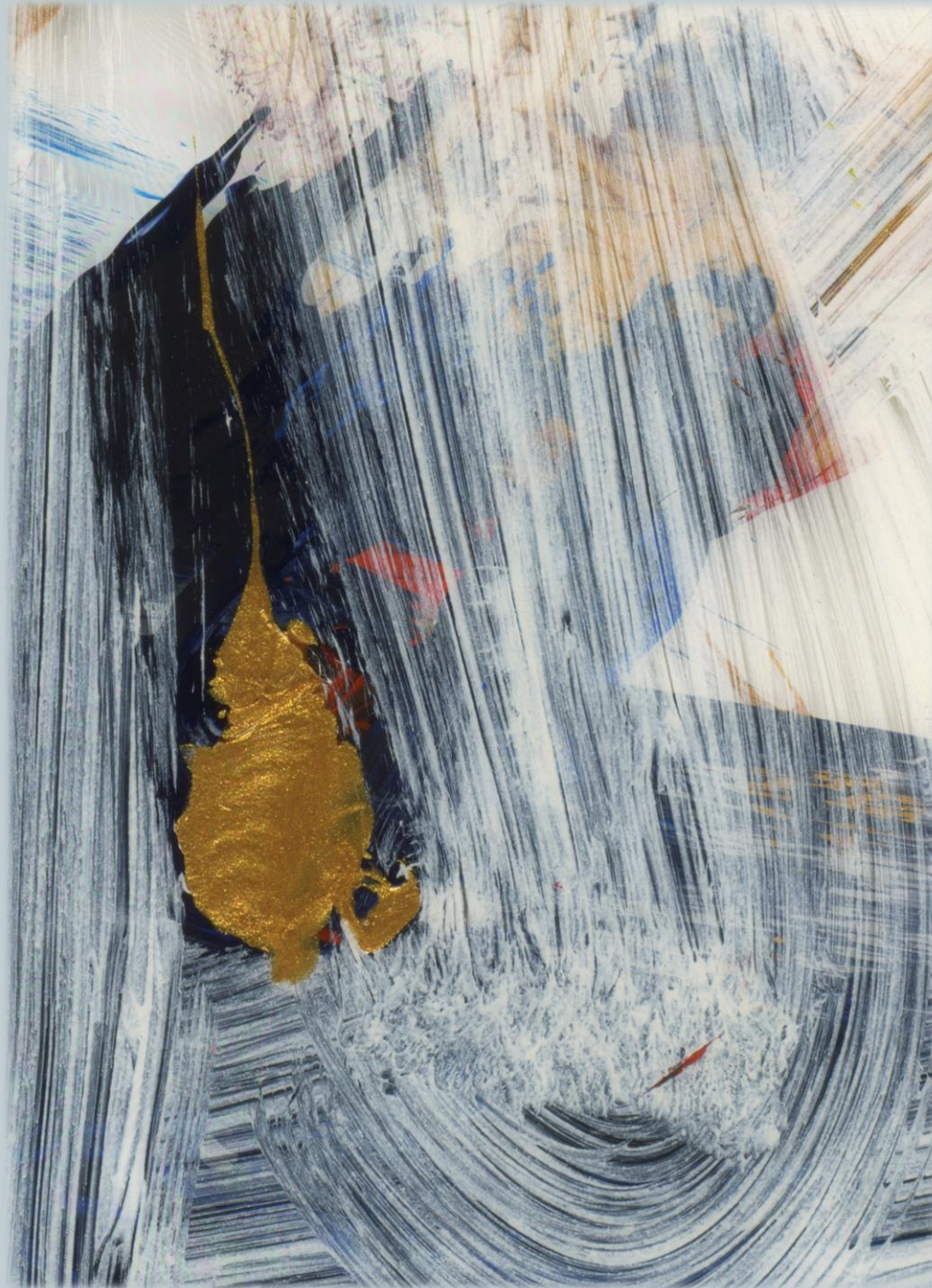
Offering Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have built us up in faith
and bound us together in love.

By your grace, may all that we do
show the glory of your name
and serve the good of your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



So You May Know Hope
© Jan Richardson

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

ECUMENICAL

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.



77

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world;
Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,

the star of my life is Je - sus.
and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
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.

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

About that day and hour no one knows.
Therefore keep awake,
for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
Be ready, for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour.

May the grace of Christ,
the love of God,
and the Spirit's joy surround you
as you walk in the light of the Lord.



Ann Campbell

Postlude and Reflection

A photograph of a winter landscape. In the foreground, several evergreen trees are heavily laden with snow. The trees are dark green, contrasting with the white snow. In the background, a bright sun or moon is visible, partially obscured by a hazy, light-colored sky. The overall scene is serene and quiet, with a soft, diffused light.

What does it mean to “get your house in order” for the coming of the Lord?

Can we ever be perfectly ready for Christ’s return?

Why is the coming of the Lord compared to a thief in the night?

Is there grace in God’s surprising advent, God’s unexpected arrival?

Thanks to

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeter: Beth Smock
Reader: Lois Jambekar
Prayer Writer: Greg Campbell
Coffee: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, December 4, 2022

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeters: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague
Reader: Ann Campbell
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar
Coffee: Barb & Jon Brookhouse

Next Sunday's Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

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Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

Visio Divina

Photos by

Ann Campbell
Sherry Middlemis-Brown
Jim Northey

The Word

Christ our Light

20th century, Holy Rosary Priory, Bushey, United Kingdom

Note: This image and many others with iconographic content have been generously donated to the Flickr Creative Commons by Brother Lawrence, OP.

Notes:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life...those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." John 3:16, 21

"In his commentary on Genesis, 'De Genesi ad Litteram,' Augustine reflected on the meaning of the words 'Fiat lux' ("And light was made") and brought into the theological tradition a perennial interest in the theology of light and of vision. Augustine notes that light was the first creature made out of 'nothing.' As the 'first incarnation' of God's Word, light is the supreme example of God's beauty or form. Moreover, since light is incorporeal, it is the most spiritual of all 'creatures.' And since light is not only incorporeal but also visible, it is the ultimate mediator between the visible and the invisible, the material and the immaterial."

SERMON

Preparing the Way © Jan Richardson <https://janrichardsonimages.com>

Our guest artist again today is Tom Co, Some of you may know Tom from Michigan Tech. Now that he has moved to being an emeritus professor, he is spending much more time with his artwork. These works are currently on display in the gallery in the lower level of the Rosza Center.

Additional descriptions can be found at the Art in the Christian Tradition image library, a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. All images available via Creative Commons 3.0 License.