

# ROOTED IN FAITH · GROWING IN HOPE · REACHING OUT IN LOVE

# A Voice in the Wilderness: Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 4:00pm

**SERVICE NOTES:** We are glad you have joined us for this special service of Advent Lessons and Carols! The service features traditional Advent scripture lessons paired with selections from the writings of John Muir, an early conservationist influential in the establishment of our National Park system. A deeply spiritual person, Muir's writings reflect a sacred connection with the natural world, which he saw as both a place of learning about God ("nature's Bible") and a place of worship ("God's first temples"). All the music for the congregation to sing is printed in this bulletin. We encourage you to sing during the hymns and to participate throughout. Welcome!

**PRELUDE** "La Cathédrale engloutie"

"Veni, veni, Emmanuel"

"Nun komm der Heiden Heiland"

C. Debussy J. Woodman

Balthasar Resinarius

#### **OPENING READING AND INTROIT**

I wish I was so drunk and Sequoical that I could preach the green brown woods to all the juiceless world, descending from this divine wilderness like a John the Baptist eating Douglass squirrels and wild honey — or wild anything — crying, Repent! For the Kingdom of Sequoia is at hand. — John Muir

**ANTHEM** "This is the record of John" Orlando Gibbons Soloist: Andrew Hudson

This is the record of John, when the priests were sent with Levites from Jerusalem to ask him "Who art thou?" And he confessed, and denied not, and said plainly: "I am not the Christ."

And they asked him, "What art thou, then? Art thou Elias?" And he said: "I am not." "Art thou the prophet?" And he answered: "No." Then said they unto him, "What art thou, that we may give an answer unto them that sent us? What sayest thou of thyself?" And he said: "I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord!"

#### Please join in singing

**OPENING HYMN** H 75 "There's a voice in the wilderness crying" (Ascension)

On page 8

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

*Presider* Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to gather all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

People and Presider

Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos a los
que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder,
y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre.

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.

Presider The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.** 

Please be seated for the anthems and readings.

## FIRST LESSON: THE FALL

A reading from the book of Genesis.

**Genesis 3: 8-11** 

The man and the woman heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life, I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

By forces seemingly antagonistic and destructive, Nature accomplishes her beneficent designs—now a flood of fire, now a flood of ice, now a flood of water; and again in the fullness of time an outburst of organic life...This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on seas and continents and islands, each in its turn as the round earth rolls. — John Muir

## Sung by the Choir; please join on the Refrain

**CAROL** "Adam lay i-bounden"

S. Jubenville (based on a Medieval poem)

Adam lay i-bounden, bounden in a bond;

Four thousand winter thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, an apple that he took

As the scribes of the ancient times have written in their book.

## Refrain:

Singing Lady, O Lady, the Dark has born a seed:
I sing of the Mother of the Mother of Jesus Christ the apple tree! (repeat)

All was for an apple, an apple that he took

As the scribes of the ancient times have written in their book.

If the apple had not been taken from the tree,

We would not be able to sing "Ave, Ave Marie!"

Refrain: Singing Lady, O Lady....

If the apple had not been taken from the tree,

We would not be able to sing "Ave, Ave Marie!"

So praise the holy Darkness upon this holy night:

From the womb of Darkness has sprung a holy light!

Refrain: Singing Lady, O Lady...

### Sung by the Choir

**ANTHEM** "i thank you god,"

Lloyd Pfautch (text by e.e. cummings)

I thank You God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today, and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing breathing any—lifted from the no of all nothing—human merely being doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

#### SECOND LESSON: THE PROMISE

Isaiah 40:9

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves....Fears vanish as soon as one is fairly free in the wilderness. —John Muir

## Sung by the Choir

**ANTHEM** "I Go Among Trees"

Giselle Wyers (text by Wendell Berry)

I go among trees and sit still.

All my stirring becomes quiet around me like circles on water.

My tasks lie in their places where I left them, asleep like cattle.

Then what is afraid of me comes and lives a while in my sight.

What it fears in me leaves me, and the fear of me leaves it.

It sings, and I hear its song.

Then what I am afraid of comes.

I live for a while in its sight.

What I fear in it leaves it, and the fear of it leaves me.

It sings, and I hear its song.

After days of labor, mute in my consternations,

I hear my song at last, and I sing it.

As we sing, the day turns, the trees move.

#### Please join in singing

**CAROL H 67** "Comfort, Comfort ye my people" (*Psalm 42*)

On page 9

Isaiah 9:2b, 6

### THIRD LESSON: THE HOPE

A reading from the book of Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

We are often told that the world is going from bad to worse, sacrificing everything to mammon. But a righteous uprising in defense of God's trees in the midst of exciting politics and wars is telling a different story, and every Sequoia, I fancy, has heard the good news and is waving its branches for joy. Wrongs done to trees—[indeed,] wrongs of every sort—are done in the darkness of ignorance and unbelief; for when light comes, the heart of the people is always right. —John Muir

#### Please join in singing

CAROL H 56 "O come, O come, Emmanuel" (Veni Emmanuel), v. 1, 4, 6, & 7

On page 10

#### FOURTH LESSON: THE SECRET

Isaiah 11:1-2, 6

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

We all flow from one fountain Soul. All are expressions of one Love. God does not appear and flow out, only from narrow chinks and round bored wells here and there in favored races and places, but He flows in grand undivided currents, shoreless and boundless over creeds and forms and all kinds of civilizations and peoples and beasts, saturating all and fountainizing all.—John Muir

## Please join in singing

**CAROL H 81** "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming" (Es ist ein Ros)

On page 11

## Sung by the Choir

**ANTHEM** "Oh How Beautiful, This Finely Woven Earth," Greg Jasperse (text by Gaia Willis-Owen)

O how beautiful, this finely woven earth.

We are bound in threads of joy

threads of grief, of soul.

Your tears fall from my eyes, my joy rings in your laughter.

We are bound together.

Give me your sorrow; I will stretch across to you

over green pine and sparkling lake,

How my heart beats with yours; you will feel how my

heart beats with yours.

I know your heart's journey; It is my own.

#### FIFTH LESSON: THE JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-7

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Every camp of men or beast has this glorious starry firmament for a roof! In such places standing alone on the mountain-top it is easy to realize that whatever special nests we make - leaves and moss like the marmots and birds, or tents or piled stone - we all dwell in a house of one room - the world with the firmament for its roof - and are sailing the celestial spaces without leaving any track. Only by going alone in silence, without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness. All other travel is mere dust and hotels and baggage and chatter. —John Muir

#### Please join in singing

**CAROL H 79** "O, Little town of Bethlehem" (*St. Louis*)

On page 12

John 1:6-9, 14

### SIXTH LESSON: THE WAY

A reading from the Gospel of John.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

"Way" is first of all a word that designates a feature of the landscape: a road, a path. Whatever else the way involves, it begins by putting our feet on the ground so we can walk to some place—and pay attention while walking to what is beneath and around us. Spirituality begins in place. All love, all worship, all believing, all obedience occurs in place. The life of the spirit is as much about geology and geography as it is about theology and prayer. —John Muir

On page 13

## Sung by the Choir

**ANTHEM** "Morning Song" Jeffrey Jubenville (text by Mary Oliver) Every morning the world is created. Under orange sticks of the sun the heaped ashes of the night turn into leaves again and fasten themselves to high branches and the ponds appear like black cloth on which are painted islands of summer lilies. If it is your nature to be happy you will swim away along the soft trails for hours, your imagination alighting everywhere. And if your spirit carries the thorn that is heavier than lead – if it's all you can do to keep on trudging still somewhere deep within you a beast shouting that earth is exactly what it wanted each pond with its blazing lilies is a prayer heard and answered lavishly, every morning,

#### **COLLECT FOR ADVENT**

and whether or not

whether or not

you have ever dared to be happy,

you have ever dared to pray.

Every day the world is created.

*Presider* Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

From the words of John Muir: Wonderful how completely everything in wild nature fits into us, as if truly part and parent of us. The sun shines not on us but in us. The rivers flow not past, but through us, thrilling, tingling, vibrating every fiber and cell of the substance of our bodies, making them glide and sing. The trees wave and the flowers bloom in our bodies as well as our souls, and every bird song, wind song, and tremendous storm song of the rocks in the heart of the mountains is our song, our very own, and sings our love. The Song of God, sounding on forever: so pure and sure and universal is the harmony, it matters not where we are, where we strike in; on the wild lowland plains, we care not to go to the mountains, and on the mountains we care not to go to the plains. But as soon as we are absorbed in the harmony, plain, mountain, calm, storm, lilies and sequoias, forests and meads are only different strands of many-colored Light—are one in the sunbeam.

## **BLESSING** *The Presider offers a blessing and the People respond Amen.*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen**.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.** 

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.** 

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**.

**HYMN** H 73 "The king shall come when morning dawns" (St. Stephen) On page 14

POSTLUDE "In dulci jubilo" Johann Walther "Noël Étranger" L.-C. Daquin

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

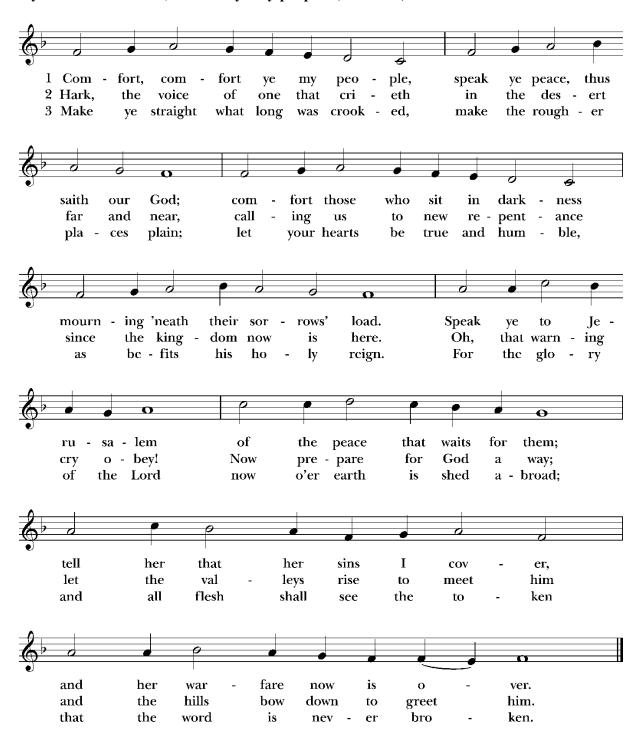
We acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally-recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

## Hymnal 75 "There's a voice in the wilderness crying" (Ascension)



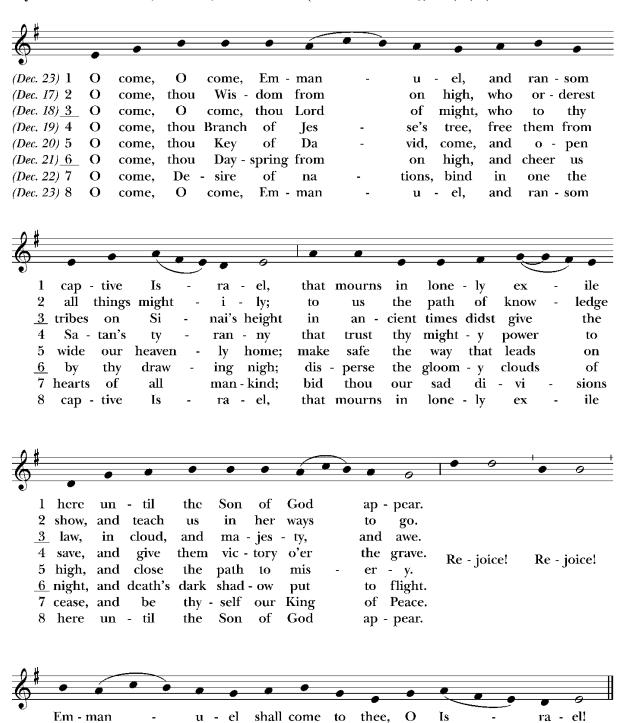
Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: Ascension, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

## Hymnal 67 "Comfort, Comfort ye my people" (Psalm 42)



Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

Hymnal 56 "O come, O come, Emmanuel" (Veni Emmanuel), v. 1, 4, 6, & 7



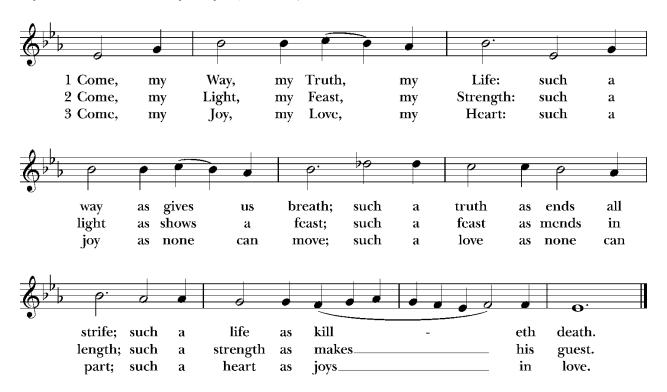
Hymnal 81 "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming" (Es ist ein Ros)



Hymnal 79 "O, Little town of Bethlehem" (St. Louis)



Hymnal 487 "Come, My Way" (The Call)



Words: George Herbert (1593-1633). Music: The Call, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Hymnal 73 "The king shall come when morning dawns" (St. Stephen)



Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: St. Stephen, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Presider: The Very Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan Deacon: The Ven. Margaret Grayden

Music Ministers: Jeffrey Jubenville and Dr. Suzanne Jubenville

Guest Musicians: Countertenor - Andrew Hudson; Barefoot All-Stars Viol Collective - Peter Hallifax, Julie

Jeffrey, David Morris, Lynn Tetenbaum Reader (John Muir): Chris Reynolds

Readers (Scripture) Joy Humphrey, Nick Cornes, Gwyneth Bruch, Gabe Avila, Maria Acuna-Feldman, Bob

Holm

Ushers: Maria Acuna-Feldman, Janet Lane Live Stream Coordinator: Gabe Avila

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STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT AND ACTION



WEBSITE LINK



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