

Advent Lutheran Church

Pastor Anita R. Warner

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WELCOME

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, please fill out a guest card and place it in the offering plate or in the basket in the entry area to help us welcome you. Please introduce yourself to others near you and to the pastor. We hope you can join us again soon.

NURSERY CARE

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available in Berkland Fellowship Hall directly behind the entry area. Children are welcome and included at worship; feel free to walk with them in the back of the worship area if they become noisy or restless.

COMMUNION

Baptized persons who believe that through the bread and wine we receive Christ's body and blood for our forgiveness are invited to communion. The center ring of glasses contains white grape juice. Gluten free bread is available.

PRAYER MINISTER

Prayer ministers are available for individual prayer during communion and after the service at the front right corner area of the sanctuary.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like some of Advent's people to join you in prayer you may contact Jane Osumi at janeybugo@yahoo.com. You may also write a prayer request on the guest card and leave it in the offering plate or in the basket on welcome table in the gathering area.

HEARING ASSISTANCE UNITS

Hearing enhancement equipment is available in the sound booth in the back corner of the sanctuary.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2017

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome in this community celebrating God's Spirit in the world.

God's grace meets us in the water and Word, and in the bread and wine. We are here to know the touch of God's forgiveness and love and to hear God's calling in our lives.

Please introduce yourself to others here and to the pastor. We invite you to complete the Guest card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as a reminder of your presence with us in worship today.

GATHERING

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Prelude and Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.**

We fear that we are not good enough.

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.**

Forgive us. Stir us.

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,**

act for what is just,

and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven,

✠ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

Gather 533
Verses 1-2, 5, 7

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

You may be seated.

WORD

Reading

Genesis 50: 15-21

After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."
¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103

The Lord is Kind and Merciful

Gather 99

The cantor sings Refrain I alone the first time, then the congregation sings Refrain I with the cantor; the cantor sings the verses.

Reading

Romans 14: 1-12

printed on the back

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands

Alleluia

Gather 198

Gospel announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 18: 21-35

printed on the back

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Pastor Anita

Sermon

Rev. Anita Warner

Silence for reflection; when the music begins, stand to sing the hymn of the day.

Hymn

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Gather 726

Prayers of the Church

... Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

MEAL

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with others. You may use these or similar words: "Peace be with you." You may use the sign of a handshake, a hug, or a bow with palms together. Please allow those who prefer less contact to choose the level of touch.

Offering

Welcome! If you are visiting, please fill out a Guest card this morning on the welcome table in the narthex / gathering area and leave it in the basket, as a way to help us welcome you further and another way of offering yourself to God on this day.

Offertory

Meditation on Ubi Caritas

Offering Response

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us. Ephesians 1:3

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low. Praise Him a - bove, ye heav - en - ly
host. Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

TEXT: Thomas Ken
MUSIC: Jimmy Owens

FAIRHILL
L. M.

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of life,

**you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.**

**Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.**

Amen.

Celebration of Ministry

Today we celebrate the participants in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface

Gather 199

Sanctus

Gather 201

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

Agnus Dei

Gather 207

Communion

We believe that in the bread and wine of communion we receive Christ's body and blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. Come forward as the ushers direct you to the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and then the wine. The bread is gluten free. The center ring of cups in each tray contains grape juice for those who prefer it. We invite those who do not yet receive communion to come forward for a blessing – please cross your arms over your chest as a sign.

Songs during communion:

I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord

Gather 806

Awake, O Sleeper Rise from Death - Kyle T. Jones

Awake, O sleeper,
rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light,
so learn his love—
its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.

There is one Body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, on Faith, and one Baptism,
one Father of us all.

Then walk in love as
Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.

For us Christ lived,
for us he died
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.

SENDING

Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.

May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

Announcements

Benediction

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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VISUAL ART this morning includes

Brothers by Yoram Raanan

Raanan's paintings are a modern expression of Jewish collective consciousness. Characterized by intuition and imagination, there is a strong sense of light, color and spirituality. He is inspired by the Bible, nature and the Land of Israel.

Between Us by Yoram Raanan

Wrapped in a coat of many colors, the figures in "Between Us" stand facing each other in intimate communion. Each brush-stroke conveys emotion in the depth of the feelings they share. The strokes of life run through them. Their inner world is rich with detail, movement and energy. Between their hearts flickering flames of candles appear, connecting the figures with warmth and light. And yet there is also disharmony suggested by the discordant lines and the dark places – as happens in real life.

The Return of the Prodigal by Father Sieger Köder (Germany, 1925-2015)