
Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

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verb

verb: Repair or renovate (a building, work of art, etc.) so as to return it to its original condition.

Return (someone or something) to a former condition, place, or position.

Worship Participants

Pastor: Pastor Herm Van Niejenhuis ✦ Piano: Zoe Hoekstra ✦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries
Drums: Adam Schultz ✦ Violin: Amie Smit ✦ Vocalists: Anna & Mark Christians
Readers: Jenni & Joya Breems ✦ Candle Lighter: Jonathan Breems
Sound: Andy/Levi Landman ✦ Projection: Dave/Austen Goslinga
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Psalm 85:4

Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

God Gathers Us for Worship

Opening Song and Candle Lighting: "Christ, Be Our Light" LUYH 908:1
Soloist sings verse 1, congregation joins on refrain

The Prophecy: Isaiah 40:3-5 p.1119

*Song: "Prepare the Way of the Lord" LUYH 58
Sing once altogether, then 2 times in a round with the west side leading.

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Lord, You Have Lavished on Your Land" LUYH 65:1-3

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

The Psalm and Our Prayer of Restoration: Psalm 85

Faithful God, your love for a sinful world is breathtaking.
 Through Jesus' sacrifice, your mercy towards us is boundless;
 mercy we often take for granted.
 Christ's intercession came at a terrible price and,
 in return, too often we respond with complacency.
 Our days, full of comforts and endless details,
 distract us from the truth of our condition:
 we are sinful and forgetful of the gift of salvation.
 Forgive us. Help us look past trivial details to remember, this Advent,
 the reason for our celebration and, ultimately,
 the price that had to be paid to save a broken world.

**"You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.
 You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.
 Restore us again, O God our savior.
 Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
 Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation."
 Amen.**

The Gospel: Luke 1:46b-55 p.1589

Profession of Faith of Joya Breems

Prayer of Consecration

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

Our Father...

(we sing) **All glory, power, and praise are yours. Alleluia! Amen.**

Distribution of the Elements: "What Feast of Love" LUYH 96
 "We Will Feast"

Chorus: We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

He has done great things, we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

1. We will not be burned by the fire, he is the Lord our God

We are not consumed by the flood,

upheld, protected, gathered up. (Chorus)

2. In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid.

For the promised morning, oh how long?

Oh God of Jacob, be my strength. (Chorus)

3. Every vow we've broken and betrayed, you are the faithful one.

And from the garden to the grave,

bind us together, bring shalom. (Chorus)

Text & Music: Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore

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We Offer our Gifts

Our gifts to Covenant's Compassion Fund provide monetary support to our members who have financial needs.

Offertory Song: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" LUYH 59

We are Sent with God's Blessing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" LUYH 69:3

We Celebrate Communion

Here at Covenant we believe that this is not the table of Covenant Christian Reformed Church; it is not the table of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, it is the table of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We therefore invite all who believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior to come to the table to be fed and nourished. We also believe that this is a family meal. If your children have shown an interest in taking communion, please contact your elder who would be happy to talk through that with them. This morning we will come forward to receive the elements.

Preparing the Table

All things come from you, O Lord.

And of our own, we have given you.

We bring bread; **you give your body.**

We bring wine; **you give your blood.**

We bring our offerings; **yours is the sacrifice.**

Let us bring our gifts to be prepared for the communion feast of our Lord.

*Hymn of Praise: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" LUYH 965

*Invocation

Is the Father with us? **The Father is with us!**

Is Christ among us? **Christ is among us!**

Is the Spirit here? **The Spirit is here!**

This is our God: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

We are God's people. **We are redeemed.**

*Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

...Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

(we sing) **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,**

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The Institution

...Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

(we sing) **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Song of Response: "No Longer Slaves"

1. You unravel me with a melody. You surround me with a song of deliverance from my enemies till all my fears are gone.

Chorus: I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God. (repeat)

2. From my mother's womb You have chosen me; Love has called my name. I've been born again into Your family; Your blood flows through my veins.

Bridge: You split the sea so I could walk right through it. My fears were drowned in perfect love.

You rescued me so I could stand and sing: I am a child of God.

Words and Music: Brian Johnson, Joel Case, Jonathan David Helser, © 2014 Bethel Music Publishing

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Children's Blessing: "Don't Be Afraid"

LUYH 429

Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-11

p.1119, 1551

Sermon: "Advent: Hope"

Pastor Herm Van Niejenhuis

We Respond with Thanksgiving

*Song of Response: "My Soul in Stillness Waits"

LUYH 63:1,2,4

Offertory Prayer

We Offer our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the Christian Education Fund which provides funds for the education of our children at one of our local Christian schools; this "fair share" contribution helps keep tuition down to a level that is affordable for most of our families.