



*You are welcome here!*  
**We are disciples of Jesus, growing  
in Faith, Hope, and Love**

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Worship Times  
Sunday 10:15 am  
Wednesday 7:00 pm

✘

Pastor  
Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



*December 4, 2022*  
*Second Sunday of*  
*Advent*

# Gathering

## ✘ INTRODUCTION

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

## ✘ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**C** Blessed be God's name forever.  
**Amen.**

**P** Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of new beginnings,

**C** we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.

**Amen.**

**P** People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C** Amen.

## ✘ GATHERING HYMN **Blest Be the God of Israel (ELW#250)**

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## ✘ GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

## ✘ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

## ✘ ADVENT HYMN – Light Two Candles to Watch for Messiah (ELW #240) verse 2

Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
Let the light banish dark-ness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
Gently lead them homeward.

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## ✘ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

# Word

## ✘ FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ✘ **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

## ✘ SECOND LESSON – Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.*

✠ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Prepare the Royal Highway**  
**(ELW#264 verse 1)**

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!  
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

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✠ **GOSPEL – Matthew 3:1-12**

P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the third chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming  
<sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the  
prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his  
food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going  
out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the  
river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,  
“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit  
worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our  
ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

<sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear  
good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is  
coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy  
Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor  
and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable  
fire.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

✠ **SERMON**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY – Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (ACS#901)**

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### **✠ APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)**

**P** With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

### **✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A** As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people.  
God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves.  
God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

A You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C Amen.**

### ✠ PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

### ✠ OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, here and around the world.*

*After the offering is gathered, the gifts are brought forward. Please stand, as you are able.*

### ✠ OFFERING PRAYER

A Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

# Meal

## ✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## ✠ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW#190)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
Holy, holy, hold Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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## ✠ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: . . .  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup . . .  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit . . .  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants . . .  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## ✘ LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## ✘ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

## ✘ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

## ✘ COMMUNION HYMN – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**(ELW#257) vs. 1-4**

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## ✘ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord

C **Amen.**

## ✘ BLESSING

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## ✘ ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ✘ SENDING HYMN – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (ELW#254)

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## ✘ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**The following items are being collected on an  
ongoing basis for the  
Grand Prairie Food and Clothing Co-op:**

- Men's medium and large long sleeved shirts
- Men's pants/jeans (32, 34, 36)
- Shoes for kids and men (all sizes)
- Men's and Women's jackets (all sizes)

**PLUS, volunteers are always needed!**

**The Co-op is open 9am-11am Tuesday thru Friday.**

**If anyone is able to volunteer even one or two days a month,  
anything is welcome!**

**There will be no Tuesday morning Bible Study scheduled during  
December, as we focus on church and family during the Advent  
and Christmas seasons.**

**Stay tuned for information about Bible Study in January.**

## ✘ **SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Assisting Minister:	Julie Schmidt
Lay Reader:	Steve Curry
Communion Cup Holder:	Maleah Zavala
Usher:	Adix Family
Videographer:	Cherie Oertel
Altar Care:	Leah Adix
Sunday School:	Katie Valencia

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