

Prince of Peace
906 North Main St. Brockton, Massachusetts
508-586-7975

Sunday November 28, 2021

Communion in place

The First Sunday in Advent



Making room for hope

Prelude

Welcome

The pandemic has shown and has also widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our church become a house where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we listen to the word of the prophets of the Bible, hear the call to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn.” May the power of this word fill the lonely and frightened spaces within us with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Prayer

Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Wreath:

Hope waits for us at Advent, Hope waits for us to trust.

Hope waits for our commitment to a land that's kind and just.

In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world that heals the ones in pain.

Hope is born in us again!

Time for Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

who alone does wonders,

who lifts up the lowly,

who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

(sung response)

**Make of my heart a stable, a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God
about what we've done and left undone that has created less hope in a hurting world.

Regret weighs on us like a dead weight stone.

Now is the time to breathe out this regret,

and breathe in the life-giving, forgiving Spirit of God.

(sung response)

**Make of my life a stable, a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit,
inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

It is time to breathe out our fear and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God.

(sung response)

**Make of our church a stable, a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of this church,
welcoming with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.

This is God blessing for you:

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through Jesus God has forgiven all your sin.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

Fling Wide the Door

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weiszel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MÄCHT HOCH DIE TUR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

May 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: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word

Children's Moment

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake
of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Gospel Greeting: (sing it out!)

**Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia,
Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia!**

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Gospel Greeting: (sing it out!)

Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia,

Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia!

Message

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Service of Confirmation of Evelyn Ida Linehan

I John 4.9 "God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him."

Worship Assistant:

I present Evelyn Ida, who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

P. Evelyn, we are so happy that you now want to claim the faith of your baptism and that you are ready to take on greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. Let us pray:

Merciful God, we thank you for this sister whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of your spirit, and fed her at your holy table. Through your Word she has learned of your loving purpose for her and for all creation. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen

Now I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, all forces that defy God, the devil and all his empty promises?

Confirmand: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Confirmand: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmand: I renounce them.

P. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P. What does this mean?

Evelyn: I believe that God has created me and all that exists.

God has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers.

God provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work and all I need from day to day.

God also protects me in times of danger and guards me from every evil.

All this God does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it.

Therefore, I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God?

All: 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.

P. What does this mean?

Evelyn: I believe that Jesus Christ—true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary—is my Lord.

At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person.

He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil,—not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.

All this he has done, that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he is, risen from the dead, and living and ruling eternally.

This is most certainly true.

P. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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

P. What does this mean?

Evelyn: I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort, believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and made me holy, and kept me in true faith.

In the same way the spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth,

and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church, day after day, he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day he will raise me, and all the dead and give me and all believers eternal life.

This is most certainly true.

P. Evelyn, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The confirmand answers: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P. People of God, do you promise to support this sister and to pray for her in her life in Christ?

All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P. Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made this young woman your own. You forgave her all her sins and brought her to newness of life. Continue to strengthen her with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in her your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; we ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,

All: Amen

P. Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Evelyn Ida the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering and bring her to everlasting life.

All: AMEN!

Worship Assistant: Let us rejoice with this sister in Christ:

All: Thanks be to God!

P. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

P. Let us offer one another a greeting of Christ's peace.

The Peace

Announcements

--Altar flowers today are given to the glory of God in honor of Evelyn Ida's confirmation by Oma and Opa

--Thirsty Thursday theme: Time to prepare! Pictures to prandall22@gmail.com

--Weds. Bible Study 10 AM-we will be on Facebook live

--Sunday December 19 is the Family Christmas Project

--Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service 7 PM Tuesday December 21

Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities, state and nation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind, especially to our congregation as we discern our future. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters. We pray for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope and new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

The Words of Institution The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

We, who are many, are one body, as we share this one bread.
The gifts of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

(We share in communion in place, during the meditation hymn)

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen

Blessing:

May God's door of welcome swing open in your heart and in your life.
May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already know.
And may the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.
May it be so for you.

May it be so for us.

May it be so for this church. Amen!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels

the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

3 Where children young and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the Mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory
breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Thank you to Evelyn Reuben and our friends at First for printing this bulletin!

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Evelyn Ida Linehan statement of Faith

I John 4.9 “God’s love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.”

These are some important things I know about God. The Lord created the stars, sun, moon and planets which is included in the whole universe. God made plants, trees and animals that all provide us with materials to build and work.

I learn about God from the Bible and stories that my parent, grand-parents, aunts and uncles would tell me.

God’s promise comes through Abraham and his family, which you would assume would mean that they are a perfect family, but they are not. Their flaws are what shows God’s true love for everyone. For example, Abraham’s grandson Jacob, from his birth was going against his twin brother, Esau. He continued going against Esau even as a grown up, until the Lord worked through him and helped him improve as a person. That improvement wore off because when he became a parent he picked favorites among his children and cared for and loved Joseph the best. Still God loved Jacob.

We get the Ten Commandments from God through Moses. I believe the Ten Commandments are a path that may guide you through life and its challenges. They list situations you might run into in your life and help you with do’s and don’ts.

My difficulty in believing is when you are praying for good things and feel like you are doing everything right but things aren’t going your way. It seems like if you follow the rules of a good life, a good life should happen. I think about that and remember even people like Jesus cannot have a perfect life no matter how much he did everything right and helped others. Still, I wonder why life is so unfair.

The most important thing to me about God is that God’s love is never ending no matter what you have done or what kind of person you are.

What I know about Jesus is that he is the son of God who was born on Christmas Day. When his mother, Mary, was told she was having a baby at her young age she was in complete shock. Mary was told by an angel that she would name him Jesus. Joseph was also in shock because it was surprise to him. But after an angel visited him, Joseph began to plan with Mary to get married and help her take care of the child. When Jesus grew up he was able to heal people, like a man that was paralyzed or people who were sick. Once he was able to feed a large crowd of 6,000 people with one little boy’s lunch that was only five loaves and two fish.

Some of Jesus’ teachings are challenging like, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Jesus also told stories such as the “lost sheep” where the shepherd leaves everything to look for the one that was lost and the “wasteful son” where the younger son wastes everything, but his father still takes him back.

Jesus had his last meal with his friends where they ate bread and drank wine. He told them, “this bread is my body and this wine is my blood given for you for the forgiveness of sins.” This is where we get Holy Communion from. Later that night after supper the religious authorities planned on killing Jesus. Judas Iscariot agreed to betray Jesus. So Jesus was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death on the cross. Not only was he betrayed by a friend, but his best friend, Peter, even denied knowing him. Jesus died on the cross and was buried, but three days later he was raised from the dead. His friends were shocked, amazed and didn’t know what to believe.

One big problem for kids today comes from school and its stress of getting good grades, keeping up with the work and making sure everything else in your life gets done while you do it. Knowing Jesus could help with this, for when life gets overwhelming you could be able to pray and he would be able to guide you through these hard times. Personally, I have had problems like this that make me feel so stressed, but I would take a minute and pray, which helps calm me down.

The hardest thing Jesus had to do was watch his friends betray him and deny him and get arrested and sentenced to death on the same night. Imagine this being you, you watch all your friends betray and deny you and then you die and are buried.

I believe the Holy Spirit is first seen in the beginning of creation. The Holy Spirit speaks through the prophets such as Daniel, Micah, and Malachi and many others. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit acts through Mary when she has Jesus. When I was baptized the Spirit of God said for me, “You are my child.” The same thing happened to Jesus. When Jesus was risen from the dead he was with his friends for forty days. When he left, he promised his friends that the Holy Spirit would come over them with power so they could be his witnesses.

I think the Spirit of God is moving in the world today through many things and people. For example, the pandemic has so many people trying to find the answers to it. The Holy Spirit moves through parents protecting their kids, grand-parents staying away from their kids and grandkids so they don’t get sick at their older age. We do these things because the Holy Spirit is giving us the strength to push through and better the world even though it is so hard to do this.

The choices in my life where I need the guidance of the Holy Spirit are things like moving on from a sport and finally making that choice. The Holy Spirit helps to think through that decision by thinking if it still brings you joy and if you still truly love it. The Holy Spirit give me the power to make hard choices and it opens new chapter in life that are for the better.