

Season of Advent

HANGING OF THE GREENS



Northwest United Protestant Church

Disciples of Christ

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Rev. Miriam Gentle

**“Loving and Serving Christ in our
Community and World”**

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Office Hours: M-F 9:00a — 1:00p

9:45 a.m.

November 28, 2021

Prelude

Sue Lincoln, Pianist

Welcome

Call to Worship

Anna Kion

How shall we prepare for the coming of the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare for the coming of the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

How shall we prepare for the coming of our Savior?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare for the coming of the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

Glory to God in the highest!

Opening Prayer

Unison

God of the darkened night,

God of the morning light, come to us again.

Come to us in the preparation of our homes and our hearts. Come to us in the harmony of song and the sound of silence. Come in our faithful waiting and hopeful watching. Come to us in the cry for peace and the smile of forgiveness.

God of the darkened night, God of the morning light.

Come to us. Be with us. Amen.

Hymn "Come O Long Expected Jesus"

#125

Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us;
Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation,
come salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.



HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

The Paraments and Advent Colors

Joe Popp

Hymn "All Earth is Waiting"

#139

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'
one whose name is 'God with us' our Saviour shall be;
Through whom hope will blossom once more within our
hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;
yet feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving Christ brings us liberty.

The Advent Wreath

Sue Jewett

Lighting the Advent Candle

Prayer

Unison

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power
of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

The First Candle is Lit

Response “Christ Be Our Light” Tracy Rieke, guitar

(Cantor will sing the refrain once. Congregation join on the second time through)

**Refrain: Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our church gathered today.**

Verse: Cantor

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see. **Refrain – All**

The Sanctuary Evergreens	Mike Dodson
Special Music "The Holly and The Ivy"	Rev. Gentle, harp
The Christmas Tree	Dalene Zabel
Special Music "O Christmas Tree"	Sue Lincoln, piano
The Christmas Poinsettia	Shirley Wolf
Hymn "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"	#153 (1,2,4)

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all
from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years,
shall come the time foretold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.



The Nativity

Brad Butherus

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#144 (1,2,4)

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.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise;
and peace to all on earth;

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:
O come to us, abide with us,
our God, Emmanuel.

Invitation to Share

Jennifer Jacobson

Doxology "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Miriam Gentle

Elder's Prayer

Jennifer Jacobson



Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements

Closing Prayer

Unison

Gracious and loving God, we watch and wait for the warmth and light of your presence.

We rejoice that your light is radiant within us, despite the wintry seasons of our lives.

We live with hope that your birth will occur in every heart and the world will fall to its knees in joy.

Make ready our hearts for your coming and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #167

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens,
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth: [Refrain]

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]



Benediction

Rev. Miriam Gentle

Congregational Refrain

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Postlude

Sue Lincoln, Pianist

PRAYER CONCERNS

- ◇ Healing prayers for Pat C’s friend Lynda; Candace's niece Alice; the Galpin’s friend, Jason G, recovering at home.
- ◇ Prayers for Northwest Church, that we discover new ways to be faithful to God's call and continue to be generous with our gifts so that we continue to love and serve our community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◇ **THANK YOU:** To Joe Popp for his beautiful carpentry work on the new book shelf for the pianist, and handbell risers for the bell choir.
- ◇ **THANK YOU:** To the dedicated volunteers who turned out and transformed the sanctuary into the Christmas scene last week.
- ◇ **HANDBELL CHOIR:** Rehearsal for Christmas is on Wednesdays, at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary!
- ◇ **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY:** Rev. Jennifer Jacobson will be leading the Advent Bible Study! The meetings are online on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, starting the first week of December.