



Come to Believe † Come to Belong
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 8, 2024

PRELUDE

Robert Aaron

“Come to believe, Come to belong, Come to receive, the promise of God”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLE READING

At his birth in Bethlehem, there was no room found for Jesus. The Ruler of the Universe was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid to sleep in a manger. Remembering that we love only because he first loved us, we pray that God would prepare for Himself a place in our hearts. In love, we light the second candle in the Advent wreath. It is often called the candle of **PEACE**.

(The congregation sings together)



CANDLE PRAYER FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Let us pray...

Loving God, thank you for the PEACE you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord, and the things which we have neglected to do.

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

God of grace – **Prepare our hearts to follow Jesus in doing your holy will. Forgive us we pray, and shape our lives according to the cross of Christ, who has called us to walk in his ways. Father, restore us to a right relationship with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the name of Jesus - God's only Son, who came to do the will of his Father - you are forgiven. By Christ's holy sacrifice, your sins are wiped clean, and you are made right with our heavenly Father. Rejoice in this free gift, and take it to heart.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

GATHERING SONG *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

GREETING and PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(Please be seated)

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Angel Gabriel”

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

¹ “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,

For He has visited and redeemed His people,

⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us

In the house of His servant David,

⁷⁰ As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,

Who have been since the world began,

⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies

And from the hand of all who hate us,

⁷² To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers

And to remember His holy covenant,

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;

For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people

By the remission of their sins,

⁷⁸ Through the tender mercy of our God,

With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



(Glorify Thy Name)

Jesus we love You

We Praise You, we adore You

Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name

Glorify Thy name in all the earth!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Gary Heltsley

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P) As we await the coming of our Lord Jesus in glory, let us approach His throne in prayer for our needs and the needs of all people.

A brief silence

Thank you, dear Father, for promising that not one of your lambs, tended by your Son the Good Shepherd, shall be lost. Thank you that Jesus levels mountains, fills in valleys, and takes every road, until he finds and saves them. Unite us with him, so we, too may seek the lost and lead them to his embrace.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Make your Church the herald of good tidings, and fearless in proclaiming your Word. Through it, grant your comfort to those who are lost and afflicted by sin, sorrow, and suffering. In everything it says and does, may your Church constantly and faithfully announce: "Behold: Here is your God!"

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Be merciful to our persecuted brothers and sisters who proclaim the name of Jesus even amidst their enemies. Make their witness shine as a light in the world's darkest places. Pierce the hearts of their tormentors with the truth of the Gospel.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Bless and prosper the work of this congregation: its pastor and council members, its committee members and other volunteers, and all who worship with us. Keep us steadfast in faith, fervent in worship, radiant in holiness, patient in adversity, and beautiful in our love for you and for your people.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Grant wisdom to our earthly leaders. Use them to raise the poor from depths of despair. Level mountains of injustice and suffering throughout the world. We earnestly pray that nation will no longer raise sword against nation. Guide us all in the pathways of your righteousness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Remove the burden of pain and sorrow from the backs of all who suffer, especially those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts (*pause for silent or spoken prayers*). Bring them physical and spiritual healing. Let them rejoice in your goodness and give thanks for their deliverance.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Merciful Father, we entrust into your never-failing care our beloved dead. Comfort those whose grief runs deep. Revive our spirits, direct our days and our deeds in your peace, and make us abound in every good work. Strengthen our hearts with the gift of your Spirit, and gather us, with all the redeemed, into your eternal Kingdom, where we shall rejoice in your goodness and righteousness forever.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

P) For all these things; for all we lift before you in the silence of our hearts; and for everything that you know we need, we pray in the name and power of our Lord Jesus Christ, and commend into your mighty and merciful hands. *Amen.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *The offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. If you are visiting with us, please feel free to pass the offering plate, you are our guest.*



OFFERTORY *Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us. May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...(pastor continues, concluding with), we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung)*



***Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our
debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen***



INVITATION TO COMMUNION – *Holy Communion is open to all. We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine\juice, which are his body and blood. Young children whose parents do not wish them to receive Communion yet, are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. (the red liquid is wine; the white liquid is grape juice).*

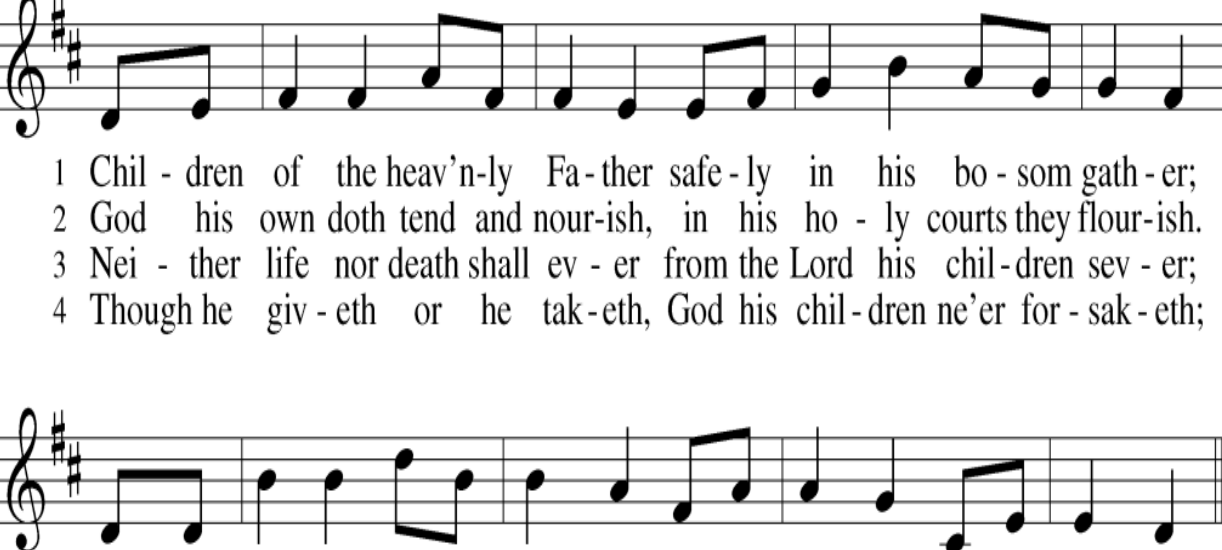
COMMUNION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

"Children of the Heavenly Father"



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther safe-ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

nest-ling bird or star in heav - en such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might-y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre-serve them pure and ho - ly.

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

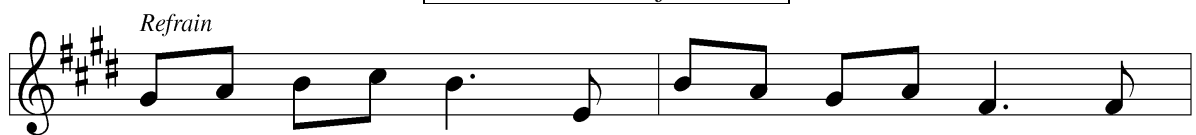


Is-rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all-suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

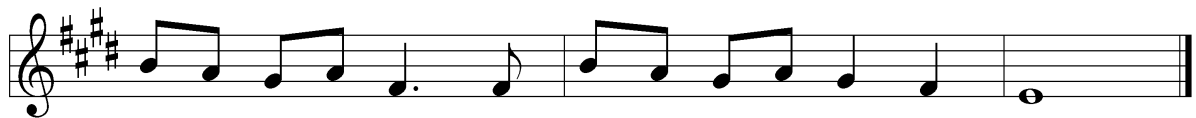
"As the Grains of Wheat"



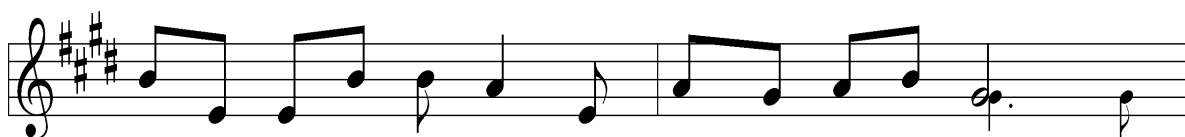
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

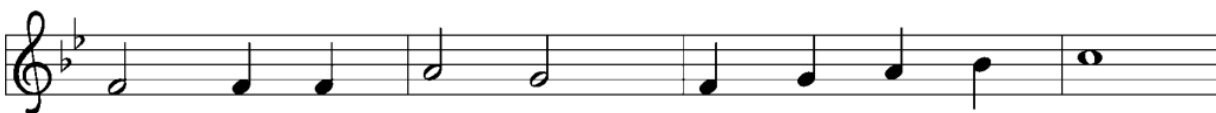
"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...

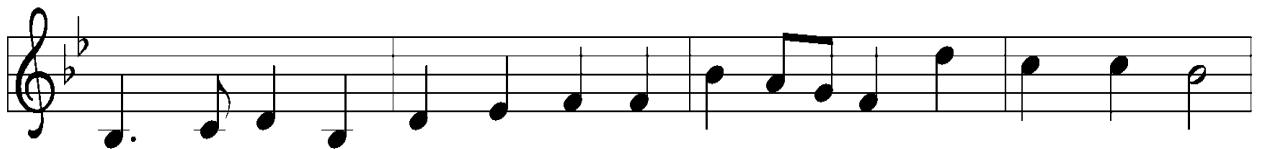
God of new beginnings, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us for the journey of faith as we wait and watch for the Lord's Messiah to break into our world in ever amazing ways. *Amen.*

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"*



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Robert Aaron – piano ~ Nancy Martin – choir ~ Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Linda Gaskins & Phyllis Merhaut **Ushers:** Pete Fischer & Jerry Jensen

Reader: Mike Pearce

Flowers: Patty Rogers

Sacristans: Arlene Burton & Janet Wright

Comm Assistants: Dianne Baxter & Jan Krogh

Close up: Dave Severeid

Last Week's Attendance: 102

Last Week's Offering: \$7,994.01

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to North Bay Lutheran Community Church! Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we light the second candle of the Advent Wreath, the candle of PEACE. This Sunday we remember the PEACE we have in Christ. If you are a visitor, please feel free to fill out an attendance card located in the slot in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. We also invite you to stay for Fellowship following our service. We are glad that you're here!

Fellowship time – Today – Soup & Bread. *December 15th* salads and rolls.

Neighborhood Bible Study – meets on **Tuesday, December 10th; at 12:45 pm.** For more information, please contact Sue Nichols or call the church office.

Dementia Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, December 11th at 10:00 am.** For more information, please contact Patty or call the church office.

Men's Bible Study will meet this coming Saturday morning at 8:00 am as we continue our study of Genesis.

Christmas Cantata – NBLCC Choir presents "*The Winter Rose*", **Sunday, December 15th.** *The Winter Rose* incorporates both traditional carols and newly composed anthems that visit the timeless Christmas story with fresh insight. Through use of music, narration and simple symbolism, the cantata presents the life of Christ from prophecy to passion. Invite your friends and family to join us for this very special music.

Poinsettias – We would love to decorate our church with poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to donate one to the church, please bring it in during the week of *December 16th thru December 23rd*. Also, you can fill out a dedication form in honor of a loved one. The forms are available on the table in the Narthex (in front of the church office) and dropped in the basket provided. Dedication slips need to be received no later than **December 19th** to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Thank you!

Plan To Attend our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Tuesday, **December 24th at 6:00 pm**. Please note there will **not** be a Christmas Day service.

Office Hours this week are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Monday through Friday. Pastor Gary is in the office Tuesday and Wednesday, and Thursday 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Prayers – Please call the church line with your prayer requests, or if you need pastoral care (360) 275-3390.



North Bay Lutheran Community Church
PO Box 1643 - 221 E Lakeland Dr. - Allyn, WA 98524
Phone: (360) 275-3390
Email: office@northbaylutheran.org
www.NorthBayLutheran.org