**December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent – Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on December 10, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship December 10, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858523329?pwd=UUpVdCtkTDB0MWhTVkhjSmxvWjFnUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+12042727920,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**+14388097799,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada  
+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada  
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i)

**……………………………………….**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10TH –DECEMBER 17TH, 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, December 3rd, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/dxqbER5DPfY**](https://youtu.be/dxqbER5DPfY)

**……………………………………….**

**Coming Events** *(save these dates)* ***bold print - events being held here at St. Peter’s***

1. **Dec. 13** **Bible Study at 10:30 am**
2. Dec. 13 Hymn Sing Cafe *(David Durward Bell Ringers)* *Central Presbyterian, Cambridge* *2:00 – 4:00 pm)*
3. **Dec. 14 Holden Evening Prayer Service for the (Almost) Longest Night 7:00 pm**
4. **Dec. 15 Annual Advent Candlelight Walk in the Preston neighbourhood 6:00 pm**
5. **Dec. 17 Pulled Pork Lunch & Silent Auction following Worship**
6. **Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm**
7. **Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service 10:00 am**
8. **Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm**

Apr. 5-7 Bishop’s spiritual Retreat for Lay Persons (Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls)  
**……………………………………….**

1. **The Life of St. Peter’s for the week of December 10 – December 17, 2023**
2. Monday 6:00 pm TOPS - R.F.F. *(Art Room)*
3. Tuesday 7:00 pm Scouts - R.F.F. *(Scout Room, Art Room, Fellowship Hall)*
4. Wednesday **10:30 am Bible Study** *(Art Room)*
5. Thursday
6. Friday
7. Saturday **10:00 am Choir Practice** *(Sanctuary)*
8. Sunday **10:00 pm Worship Service** – Pageant, followed by Pulled Pork Lunch and Silent Auction
9. **……………………………………….**
10. **Pastoral Visit:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.
11. **……………………………………….**
12. **Prayer List:**  Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, MacKenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan Ken, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne.
13. **……………………………………….**

## We need you to help feed our neighbourhood! The freedom Centre has joined with Cambridge Community Table to offer a meal to our community twice a month on Tuesday night. We need volunteers: Food Preparation, set up, take down, meet and Greet. Every hour you can give once or twice a month. Call for information 519-591-6518 or email [rosemary@freedomcentre.ca](mailto:rosemary@freedomcentre.ca).

1. **……………………………………….**

## Weekly Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Art Room. Everyone is welcome!

1. **……………………………………….**

**Season of Giving:** This holiday season the Cambridge Food Bank expects more than 2,000 households will contact them for holiday food and family support.  Their hope is that with community support, families in need can share love, laughter and gratitude around the dinner table this year. One of their donation options is to purchase grocery store gifts cards in increments of $25.  We hope that our St. Peter's family will help by purchasing gift cards and placing them on the offering plate until December 17th. Let's help make sure no one goes hungry this holiday season! The Ministry of Vision and Mission.to

**……………………………………….**

**December 13, 2023 - Hymn Sing Café** with Katherine Rochester at the organ, with the David Durward Bell Ringers – Central Presbyterian Church 2:00 – 4:00 pm.  
**……………………………………….**

**Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 pm - Holden Evening Prayer Service for the (Almost) Longest Night.** It’s a time that brings to mind persons, events, and relationships that have been a part of our lives in the past but have now changed or gone. It’s a time that can feel extra lonely because our feelings of loss or grief don’t match up with the joy and festivities of the season. On this (almost) longest night we invite you to join us for a time of meditative worship that gives space for remembering, sharing our hurts and longings with God, and preparing our hearts to welcome Christ. There will be a time of fellowship to follow.

**……………………………………….**

**Friday, December 15, 2023 6:00 pm** - Trillium Church is once again hosting the annual Advent candlelight walk in the Preston neighbourhood. This year, we will walk through the neighbourhood and hear the stories of how the animals came to be at the stable on Friday, December 15, 2023, at 6:00pm. Their journeys are all important to the Advent story. Each animal will discover a gift or lesson from their respective journey that they will share with us. We will have costumes to represent the animals. We will sing carols at each stop.

As with the past 2 years, we would love it if you and your congregation would join us on this walk as we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The readings this year could be done by a single person or by 5 readers. We would like to continue stopping at each church along the way to tell a part of the story. Please let me know if you would like to participate as a reader or if you can advertise this to your congregation so that they may participate in the walk.  Please feel free to reach out if you would like to participate or have any questions at 519-653-6601 ext 3. Pauline Duchesne, Children and Youth Pastor, Trillium United Church.

**……………………………………….**

**Sunday December 17, 2023 - Pulled Pork Lunch & Silent Auction** following Worship – see attached information sheet!   
**……………………………………….**

1. Give **Gifts from the Heart** this Christmas! Canadian Lutheran World Relief's new Gifts from the Heart catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It’s full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God’s love with the world! Copies are available through the church, by emailing [clwr@clwr.org](mailto:clwr@clwr.org) or you can shop online at [clwr.org/GFTH](file:///D:\Documents\Services,%20Sermons%20&%20Website%20Material\clwr.org\GFTH)
2. **……………………………………….**

The red poinsettia in the chancel has been placed by Bill and Patricia Hewitt. The white poinsettia has been placed by Barbara Berg. Our sincere thanks for their thoughtfulness and generosity - they will be enjoyed by all!

1. **……………………………………….**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Assisting Minister: Austin Dykstra**

**Reader: Kim Strassburger**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

A: With good and grateful hearts we acknowledge that the land upon which we live, work, play, and worship, is the same land upon which the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Attawandaron (or Neutral) peoples first lived, worked, played, and prayed to Creator. Calling the earth upon which they stood, Mother Earth, they cared for the earth as they would care for their mother. Let us take an example from our Indigenous forbears and neighbours, and show gratitude to our Mother Earth. May we be ever mindful of what she has provided for us, even to the next seven generations.

**Welcome remarks**

**Gathering Rite for Advent:**

P: Each week as we approach the Advent

of our Saviour Jesus Christ,

we acknowledge what God’s people

have always known:

***C: Even when God is active in this world,***

***hope is a work in progress.***

P: There are so many people and places and times

still awaiting God’s goodness.

And yet we trust, O God, that through your love,

***C: a familiar light can banish the fear of the other;***

P: Through your love,

***C: the warmth of good cheer***

***can extinguish cold-hearted injustice.***

P: Through your love,

***C: the song of faith***

***can rekindle hope for the hopeless.***

1. ***Candle is lit***

**ELW # 723‘Canticle of the Turning’ *(Chorus)***

***Chorus***

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.***

***Let the fires of your justice burn.***

***Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,***

***and the world is about to turn.***

*(Title: Canticle of the Turning; Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat; Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Irish Traditional; arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

P: May these flames be a sign

that God’s goodness still burns brightly

even when it seems fragile, temporary,

easily extinguished.

When we yet wonder:

How long must this world wait

to see God’s glory?

Know this truth:

You are God’s people,

Called to serve this world

and to let your light shine.

Let the fire of justice burn in your heart,

for the dead still cry

for the flicker of new life we carry.

*(Source: Adapted from “My Heart Shall Sing” Advent Candle-lighting by Barn Geese Worship, licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0. )*

**Gathering Hymn: ACS # 902 ‘Come Now, O God’**

1 Come now, O God, when our love is forsaken.

Come, when our bedrock of faith has been shaken.

Come, when our deepest of hopes are mistaken.

Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

2 Come, when we squander the freedom you gave us.

Come, break the systems of sin that enslave us.

Come, though we wonder if you can still save us.

Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

3 Come, put an end to our self-serving madness.

Come, while the world is enshrouded in sadness.

Come, turn the tears of our mourning to gladness.

Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

*(Title: Come Now, O God; Text:* *David Bjorlin, b. 1984; Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Finnish folk tune (Public Domain) Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting**:

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Theme Time**

**Prayer of the Day:**

God of restoration, you brought your people home from exile and in their joy they rebuilt your temple. Deliver us from our personal and communal exiles, and help us to build up your church. Amen.

*(Source: Adapted from* [*http://www.narrativelectionary.org*](http://www.narrativelectionary.org) *by Kimberly Leetch )*

**Acclamation: ‘Listen’**

Listen, Listen

Be open, O my heart.

*(Title: Listen; Text & Music: Bret Hesla, Tune © 2004 Bret Helsa, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

***Reader****:*

*A passage from* **Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13.** *May we be equipped by these words to walk in love for God, ourselves, our neighbours, all people, and all God’s creation.* ***(Brief pause)***

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia’s rule, to fulfill the Lord’s word spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Persia’s King Cyrus. The king issued a proclamation throughout his kingdom (it was also in writing) that stated:

Persia’s King Cyrus says: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has commanded me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. If there are any of you who are from his people, may their God be with them! They may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem. And as for all those who remain in the various places where they are living, let the people of those places supply them with silver and gold, and with goods and livestock, together with spontaneous gifts for God’s house in Jerusalem.

When the seventh month came and the Israelites were in their towns, the people gathered together as one in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua, Jozadak’s son along with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel, Shealtiel’s son along with his kin, started to rebuild the altar of Israel’s God so that they might offer entirely burned offerings upon it as prescribed in the Instruction from Moses the man of God. They set up the altar on its foundations, because they were afraid of the neighboring peoples, and they offered entirely burned offerings upon it to the Lord, both the morning and the evening offerings.

They celebrated the Festival of Booths, as prescribed. Every day they presented the number of entirely burned offerings required by ordinance for that day.

When the builders laid the foundation of the Lord’s temple, the priests clothed in their vests and carrying their trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, arose to praise the Lord according to the directions of Israel’s King David. They praised and gave thanks to the Lord, singing responsively, “He is good, his graciousness for Israel lasts forever.”

All of the people shouted with praise to the Lord because the foundation of the Lord’s house had been laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and heads of families, who had seen the first house, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this house, although many others shouted loudly with joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, because the people rejoiced very loudly. The sound was heard at a great distance.  *(CEB)*

The Living God is with us. ***C: And with all creation! Thanks be to God.***

**Engaging with the Story**

**Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13**

Nations rise and fall. As the year 539 BCE dawns, the Persian Empire was in the rise. This was the year they would conquer Babylon, and with a new ruler comes new rules. After 70 years in exile in Babylon, the Persian King Cyrus decrees that the Judeans are finally free to return to their homeland, should they choose. Many, although not all, take him up on this offer.

As you can imagine, a lot has changed in 70 years. The exiles have changed. As we talked about last week, without a temple they had to reimagine their relationship with God. They had to develop new ways of understanding how and where God meets them. With the help of prophets like Isaiah, they came to understand God as a shepherd who wasn’t bound by a building, but who comes to them wherever they are driven or scattered.

For many of the exiles, the return to their homeland was in fact a return to something completely unfamiliar. Many of the returning exiles would have been born in Babylon, and would have only known about their homeland from stories. Stories about how things had been, before the Babylonians came and destroyed it all.

And then there were those who had never left. The peasants who had been left to till the fields and “share” their crops with their overseers. Who had lived for 70 years amidst the shell of what had once been their great nation.

The return from exile is a beautiful moment, a long-awaited moment. A moment that is easy to romanticise. But the lived reality on the ground would have been incredibly challenging. How do you create a sense of unity among these different groups of people? Where do you even begin rebuilding all that has been lost?

Bit by bit, their traditions are practiced anew – making do with what they have. But all along, the vision and the hope is to rebuild the temple that was destroyed.

Finally, the moment arrives when the foundation of a new temple is laid. Everyone gathers around to be a part of this momentous occasion. The pomp and circumstance in full force, with the priests are there dressed to the nines, with trumpets and cymbals to lead the people in praise. And praise they do. People shout and rejoice and praise God with all their might. But amidst the cheers another sound bubbles up. A very different sound. When you listen closing, amidst the shouts of joy can be heard the sound of weeping.

Even in this beautiful new beginning, the memory of what has been lost is palpable. A beautiful and bittersweet moment, as their world both ends and begins right in the same place.

I couldn’t have asked for a better story for this Sunday’s worship. I’m so grateful when the Spirit does her work with the lectionary. Today, after worship, is our kickoff meeting with Trinity Centres Foundation. This is the beginning of a several month phase that will help us to reimagine our relationship with this building and help us to move in the direction of sustainability.

I know many of you are really excited. I’m sure there are some who are little nervous or apprehensive. Probably a lot of us who are feeling a little of both – both excitement and apprehension.

It will be good for us to keep this story about rebuilding the temple in mind as we move forward in this process. Because today, and in the days to come, there will be times when we won’t all be feeling the same

emotions at the same time. The good part about this is that hopefully this means there will always be some among us who are motivated and hopeful when others are feeling worn out or dejected.

The challenging part will be to remember to be compassionate and gentle with one another when we’re not all moving at the same pace. This is a new beginning. And when something new begins, something often also has to end. And that will always be complicated and bittersweet.

Unlike Ezra and his people, we still have a whole building. But we are in a place where this building has begun to feel like more of a burden than a blessing. We don’t know what the future holds for us and for this building, but we want to figure that out.

And so I pray that today, as we begin this process with Trinity Centres Foundation, that the Spirit will begin to open our hearts and our minds and our wills to what new beginning God may be laying a foundation for among us.

Through this process, we hold fast to the truth that our foundation as a community is not this building, but that our foundation is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our foundation is the faith, hope, and love we know because of God’s deep love for us and for this world.

For whether nations rise or fall, whether foundations are being laid or buildings are becoming burdens, Jesus, our Good Shepherd is with us. And this is the only sure foundation on which we can set our lives and our community. AMEN

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 438 ‘My Lord, What a Morning’**

***Refrain***

***My Lord, what a morning;***

***my Lord, what a morning;***

***oh, my Lord, what a morning,***

***when the stars begin to fall.***

1 You will hear the trumpet sound,

to wake the nations underground,

looking to my God's right hand,

when the stars begin to fall. ***Refrain***

2 You will hear the sinner cry,

to wake the nations underground,

looking to my God's right hand,

when the stars begin to fall. ***Refrain***

3 You will hear the Christian shout,

to wake the nations underground,

looking to my God's right hand,

when the stars begin to fall. ***Refrain***

*(Title: My Lord, What a Morning; Text: African American spiritual; Public Domain; Music: African American spiritual; Public Domain*

*Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A:With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, ***C:*** ***receive our prayer.***

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

***C:*** ***receive our prayer.***

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. We pray especially for Linda, Jeff, those on our prayer list, and those we name before you now aloud or silently in our hearts… Merciful God, ***C:*** ***receive our prayer.***

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God, ***C:*** ***receive our prayer.***

We pray for our siblings in Christ: for the people of King St Baptist Church and their pastor Dorin Seicaru; for the people of St Peter’s Lutheran Church, Kitchener, and their pastor Mark Ehlebracht. Merciful God, ***C:*** ***receive our prayer.***

We pray for our congregation as we embark on this journey of discovery and listening with Trinity Centres Foundation. Open our hearts, our minds, our wills to perceive where it is you are calling us to grow and change for the sake of the gospel and the world. Merciful God, ***C:*** ***receive our prayer.***

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God, ***C:*** ***receive our prayer.***

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**Amen.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

Angels said it to startled shepherds,

Jesus said it to frightened followers,

And now these words which come from heaven

are shared to make us whole and make us one.

Peace be with you.

***C: And also with you.*** *\*\*\*\**

*(A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 695 ‘As Saints of Old’ *(verses 2 & 3)***

2 A world in need now summons us

to labor, love, and give;

to make our life an offering

to God, that all may live.

The church of Christ is calling us

to make the dream come true:

a world redeemed by Christ-like love;

all life in Christ made new.

3 In gratitude and humble trust

we bring our best today

to serve your cause and share your love

with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us

in Jesus Christ your Son,

teach us to give ourselves each day

until life's work is done.

*(Title: As Saints of Old; Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900-1996, alt.Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: English folk tune; Ralph Vaughan, 1872-1958****;*** *Outside USA: Arrangement from*The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under CCLI, License # 11098609. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Prayer:**

A: God of all goodness,

generations have turned to you,

gathered around your table,

and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them

that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,

and give thanks for your rich blessings,

we may feast upon your very self

and care for all that you have made,

through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**Amen.\***

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

**Great Thanksgiving: ACS Setting 12: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 36) (sung)**

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**ELW Setting 12: ‘Preface…’ *(Advent)***

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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,

through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:

**ELW Setting 12: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ *(page 36 )***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow’r and God of might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**\*

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he showed us the full extent of his love,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. **Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion:**

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome here to receive God’s abundant gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ACS # 1056 ‘God Bless to Us Our Bread’ &**

**Choir Anthem: ‘Into the Future’ *(Oldham/Moggach)***

**ACS # 1056 ‘God Bless to Us Our Bread’**

God bless to us our bread,

and give bread to all those who are hungry,

and hunger for justice to those who are fed.

God bless to us our bread.

*(Title: God Bless to Us Our Bread; Text: Argentine traditional, collected by Federico Pagura, 1923–2016; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949; Spanish text © 2002 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved.; English text © WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music: Argentine melody, collected by Frederico Paguara; arr. John L. Bell; arr. © WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Choir Anthem: ‘Into the Future’ *(Oldham/Moggach)***

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: Lord Jesus,

in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey,

strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,

and give us glad and generous hearts

as we meet you on the way.

Amen.\*

**Blessing:**

As we watch and wait for God’s truth and justice to break into our world,

our hearts shall sing of God’s goodness,

and of the promise of hope and peace to come.

The God of peace bless you,

the love of Christ sustain you in hope,

and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you,

in every ending and every new beginning.

Amen.

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 244 ‘Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers’**

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,

and let your lights appear;

the evening is advancing,

and darker night is near.

The bridegroom is arising

and soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle;

at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain

proclaim the bridegroom near;

go forth as he approaches

with alleluias clear.

The marriage feast is waiting;

the gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory;

the bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience

their cross and suff'rings bore,

shall live and reign forever

when sorrow is no more.

Around the throne of glory

the Lamb they shall behold;

in triumph cast before him

their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,

O Jesus, now appear;

arise, O Sun so longed for,

o'er this benighted sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted,

we plead, O Lord, to see

the day of earth's redemption

that sets your people free!

*(Title: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers; Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907; Public Domain*

*Music: Swedish folk tune; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

A: Beloved of God,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***C: Thanks be to God.***\*

\*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # 42368. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.