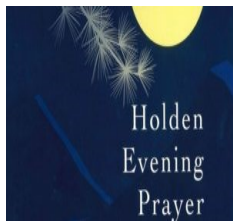


* **The Bell Tower— Ministry News** *

**Mid-Week ADVENT SERVICES—FACEBOOK LIVE
Wednesdays, December 9 & 16 at 7:00 pm**



Holden Evening Prayer

Holden Evening Prayer is a liturgical setting written by Marty Haugen. This lovely service of vespers follows the traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language. It is perfect pause during Advent to focus on the light of Christ coming into the world.

Poinsettia Order Form

Your Name: _____ Your Phone Number: _____

Circle One, Honor or Memory of: _____

Circle One, Honor or Memory of: _____

Circle One, Honor or Memory of: _____

Cost per plant is \$10.00. Amount per order form: _____



Please return this form and a check to the Church Office **by December 13.**

Our tithes and offerings are an important part of our faith journey. Electronic offerings may be given through GIVELIFY. You may also go to our website: www.stjohnswalhalla.org and access the secure giving button.



St. John's Lutheran Church
301 W. Main Street Walhalla, SC (864)638-6363
 Email: stjohnsluther@gmail.com Website: stjohnswalhalla.org
 Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

Pastor Rachel's contact information: stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com
 cell phone (910) 515-0897

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
 Walhalla, South Carolina
 11 am Worship Service
 The Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 6, 2020



Welcome to Worship at St. John's!

We are glad that you are with us today as we worship our Lord Jesus Christ. Life continues to "look different" than normal as we are taking precautions to keep everyone safe. Below are details about how we will share in our worship together.

1. Our worship will be an abbreviated form of Service of Word with Holy Communion.
2. Masks must be worn at all times while in the church.
3. Seating will be on every other pew — and we ask that you sit with your family members or with those you rode to church. Seating in the pews will be limited to 60 persons.
4. Hands should be sanitized upon entrance to the building.
5. Please follow the direction of ushers and staff as you enter through the Church Street door.
6. Communion will be celebrated in the pews using prefilled Communion/Fellowship cups.
7. Offering can be given in the baskets provided at the front of the church before and after worship. The offering plates will not be passed during worship.
8. The fellowship hall will be closed.
9. As worship concludes, we ask that you move directly outside and avoid lingering to visit.
10. If you have any questions, please speak to an usher, staff member, or Pastor Rachel.

+++ Please be courteous and respectful. Please turn off all electronic devices during worship .+++

THE MEAL

Upon entering worship today you were given a communion/fellowship cup. As the pastor shares in the Words of Institution and consecrates the elements, you will be invited to peel back the seal on the cup and partake of the bread and wine.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PARTAKING OF COMMUNION

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray: Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen**

SENDING

THE BLESSING

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

*"He Came Down"
(Hum along or Sing in your heart)*

ELW 253

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (Verse 1 & 2) ELW 240

ADVENT 2 PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **C Amen.**

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

A The Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Spoken)*

“Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia”

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
(Hum along or Sing in your heart)*

ELW 254

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

THE 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 and 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition of prayer—Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C Amen.

