



First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020
8:30am

Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

In case you don't know, "Do not be afraid!" is the most frequent command in the Bible – by far. With the beginning of Advent, we start reading from the Gospel of Luke. We will follow the story through Holy Week, Easter, and beyond. You are invited to join the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, and others as they are invited to play a role in God's story of salvation. And of course, they are encouraged to "not be afraid" as they do. It's a timeless word. We need it today just as much as ever.

In this week's sermon the good news of Jesus begins with a promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Though advanced in years, hope is on the way. They are going to have a baby. This baby will play an important role in the coming of Jesus and all that is planned for God's people.

PRELUDE

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL
HANDBELL QUARTET

VENI EMMANUEL
ARR. SONDRÁ K. TUCKER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SONG

WE GATHER 'ROUND

LYRICS BY REV. ELANA KEPPEL LEVY

TUNE: THE FIRST NOWELL

**We gather 'round in hope and faith,
Looking for the savior for whom we pray.
We pray that we will see him near,
Bringing forth life and justice for all in fear.**

Refrain: **The candles glow, showing us God's light,
Calling us forward, united in Christ.**

**We gather 'round to worship the child
Whose miraculous life helps us be reconciled.
Reconciled with God and with each other, too.
In his glory he brings us a life that's renewed. *Refrain***

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

CHRIST IS COMING, EVER COMING

RICHARD BRUXVOORT-COLLIGAN

Songleaders:

1. In the beginning was the Word, God and with God.
2. Jesus was born and Jesus died, and God raised him up.
3. God of beginnings, God of ends, oh make us your love.

Christ is com - ing, ev - er com - ing, com-ing a - gain.

Songleaders:

1. From the beginning it was life, the light for all people.
2. We celebrate the Story here with voices of hope.
3. Oh may your people be your life, the light for all people.

All: Christ is com - ing, ev - er com - ing, com-ing a - gain. Christ is

com - ing, ev - er com - ing, com - ing a - gain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come.

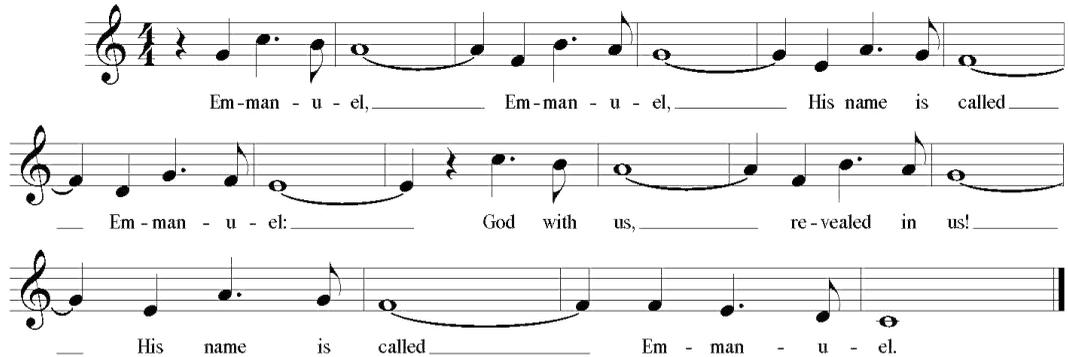
C: In a world of turmoil and trouble, help us not to be consumed with fear. Fill us with moments of hope. Strengthen our hearts to trust in the way of your salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG

sing twice

EMMANUEL

BOB MCGEE



Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, His name is called
Em-man - u - el: God with us, re-vealed in us!
His name is called Em - man - u - el.

"EMMANUEL"
By Bob McGee
©1976 C. A. Music
CCLI License #3145258

HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 1:5-25 NRSV

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

L: The Gospel of the Lord,
C: Thanks be to God.

STORYTIME

PASTOR JASON BRYAN-WEGNER

SONG

CHOOSE TO HOPE

MARTY HAUGEN

KELSEY O'LEARY, SOLOIST

Hope is born when we choose to believe that love is stronger than hatred;
Love is born when our hearts learn to see that every person is sacred.

Refrain In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love, and know that God is near.

Hope will grow when we choose to believe that we are sisters and brothers;
Love will grow when our hearts learn to see
the life we share with each other. *Refrain*

Hope will shine when we choose to believe a little child will lead us;
Love will shine when our hearts learn to see
that God is dwelling within us. *Refrain*

Sing out hope through the violence and fear, for God is present beside us;
Prince of Peace, make your home with us here,
you love and wisdom will guide us. *Refrain*

In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love, Emmanuel is near.

SERMON

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO HOLD HOPE

PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

HYMN

LOST IN THE NIGHT



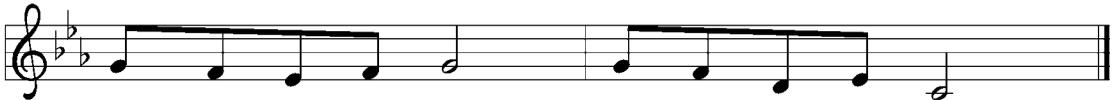
1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.



Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?
 Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?
 Christ is com - ing soon! Christ is com - ing soon!

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS
HANDBELL QUARTETHYRFYDOL
ARR. SONDRÁ K. TUCKER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near.

After each petition the congregation responds:

L: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is 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.

BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN

REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**

SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

C: Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

FUGHETTA ON *PEOPLE LOOK EAST*
KRISTY GIERE, ORGANIST

RICHARD SHEPHARD

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Marion Alborn Jane Anderson Donna Hanson Liam Kiefer

Mike, Nicole, Dylan, Norah, Carly Moravec

Bill Nietz Mavis Scheurle

SYMPATHY TO:

Edee Thurber on the death of her husband, Del Thurber.

Pam (Marc) Shaft on the death of her father, Gordon Velzke.

Jim (Diane) Fenske on the death of his mother, Viola Fenske.

Sharryn (Tim) Melin on the death of her brother, John Dalsveen.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

PROCLAIMER-Pastor Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Pastor Shelley Cunningham;

LECTOR-Rich Vetter; **STORYTIME**-Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner; **ORGANIST**-Kristy Giere;

SINGING-Kelsey O'Leary; **SONGLEADERS**-Kelsey O'Leary and Janette Reeves; **HANDBELLS**-Kristy Giere, Leah Holmes, Sue Schwartz, Maika Suzuki



Portions of the liturgy are from Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23803. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©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. "We Gather 'Round." Words: Rev. Elana Keppel Levy. Used by permission. "Christ is Coming, Ever Coming." Words and music: Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan, ©2004 Worldmaking.net. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710913. All rights reserved. "Choose to Hope." Words and music: Marty Haugen, ©2019 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710913. All rights reserved. "Lost in the Night." Music: Public Domain. Words: Lutheran Book of Worship, ©1978 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710913. All rights reserved. "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers." Words: Public Domain. Livestreaming License: Christian Copyright Solutions WORSHIPcast License #11147.



Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace
to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

(507) 288-2649 | www.zumbrolutheran.org • 624 Third Ave. SW | Rochester, MN 55902