

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT CANTATA WEEKEND: “Song of Joy”

Saturday, December 4, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 5, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

***Welcome to worship at St. Matthew!** To friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to visitors, we extend it sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Redeemer. Come again!*

***We ask that all guests** sign a yellow attendance card located in the pew rack, and then please hand the card to the pastor as you leave the worship service.*

***Assisted hearing devices and large print hymnals and orders of service** are available from the ushers.*

***If you have a prayer request**, please write it out on one of the green prayer cards located in the pew rack, and then submit it to Pastor Hugo or the lay minister before the service begins. Other prayer requests can be made by calling the church office at 763-788-9427.*

***Parents with small children** are encouraged to sit near the front in order to better see and participate during the service. If you desire other facilities, a cry room is located in the back of the worship area and bathrooms with changing tables (including back-up supplies) and infant seats are located behind the worship area (two right turns as you pass the double doors out of the worship area – just past the water fountain).*

***Thank you** for turning off all electronic equipment (cell phones, items that receive internet signal, etc.). These items interfere with our sound system.*

+ + +

PRELUDE: “Prepare the Royal Highway” – Charles Ore

+ CONNECT +

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES:

L: The LORD says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

C: We thank You, O Lord!

L: The LORD says, "The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming."

C: We adore You, O Lord!

L: The LORD says, "I the LORD do not change; therefore you are not consumed."

C: We praise You, O Lord!

L: The LORD who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C: We worship You, O Lord!

OPENING HYMN: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:

REFRAIN: Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! REFRAIN:

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! REFRAIN:

**His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.**

So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: REFRAIN:

("Prepare the Royal Highway", text copyright 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, this setting copyright 2006 Concordia Publishing House, used by permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: Let us pray.

C: **O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING SONG: "Light the Candle of LOVE Today"

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: (Advent 1) Light the can-dle of LOVE to-day, the Giv-er of love is here! Wel-come the love we live and die for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a - round you. Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a - round you.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **We have prepared our homes, and our gifts, Lord, but we need help in preparing our spirits to receive your message of love. Free us from the stresses and strains of this time, and fill our hearts, lives and lips with the joy of which the angels sang. For we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Malachi 3:1-7

"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. 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. 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, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty. "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 1:2-11

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify

how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter three.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

P: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

C: **“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”**

P: John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

C: **“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.**

P: John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized.

C: **“Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”**

P: “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him,

C: **“And what should we do?”**

P: He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

**Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Thro’ Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!**

**Now thro’ His Son doth shine The Father’s grace divine.
Death o’er us had reigned Thro’ sin and vanity;
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heavn’ly ground?
Where the angels singing With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing In heav’nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

MESSAGE: “Song of Joy: *Celebrate God’s Gift of Salvation this Christmas!*”

Created by Dale Mathews; arranged by Marty Hamby
2021 Cantata Choir

“Before Jesus”

*Before it could be finished, it had to be begun.
Before the war within us was silenced by His love,*

*Before the debt of sinners was settled on the cross,
Before the Hope of Heaven would seek and save the lost.*

*REFRAIN: Jesus! Unto us a Child is born, King of kings and Lord of lords,
Worship before Jesus. He's the One our hearts adore.
He shall reign forevermore, worship before Jesus.*

*Before He healed the leper, before He woke the dead,
The angels and the shepherds were bowing at His bed.
His light will break the darkness. His love will conquer fear.
He'll save the brokenhearted. Emmanuel is here. REFRAIN:*

*Before the Great I AM could take my place,
Before the dark would revel in His death,
Before His resurrection from the grave,
The God who rules the heavens took on flesh. REFRAIN:*

“Song of Joy”

**ALL: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic hosts proclaim “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**

*Oh, can you hear it ring through the heavens?
All of creation filling the earth with songs of rejoicing, worship, adoring,
Singing His praise, declaring His birth. Jesus Christ is born.*

*REFRAIN: Joyful, joyful, all ye nations, glory to the newborn King.
Come, ye faithful, joyful, triumphant. Good news, glad tidings we bring.
Join the anthem singing with one voice: A song of joy!*

*Oh, can you see it, shepherds and angels
Gathered beneath the Bethlehem sky?
Oh, come to the manger; look on the Savior,
Welcome the Gift, the promise of life. Jesus Christ is born. REFRAIN:*

Let heaven and nature sing....REFRAIN:

“Adore”

*You stepped down from heaven, humbly You came,
God of all creation here with us.
In a starlit manger, Emmanuel, Light of the World here to save.*

*REFRAIN: Adore, come, let us adore. Oh, come, let us adore Him, the Lord.
Worship Christ, the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.*

*Wise men bring their treasures, shepherds bow low.
Angel voices sing of peace on earth. What have I to offer to heaven’s King?
I will bring my life, my love, my all. REFRAIN:*

*Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, here with us, joy awakening.
At your feet, we fall....REFRAIN:*

“That the World May Know”

Solos by Sarah Meier, Andrew Wagner, Brenda Hugo, Ben Hugo

*God had a plan in place, before all time began,
Before the dawn of Eden, before the fall of man.
He whispered it to David; it’s in the songs he’d sing,
Words about the Son of God, the long-awaited King.*

*He spoke to Isaiah a prophecy so wild;
No one could imagine a virgin with a Child.
And He revealed to Micah a wonder for all men,
A Ruler and Messiah who would come from Bethlehem.*

*REFRAIN: That the world may know the heart of Heaven,
A Son to show God longs to seek and save us.
And from age to age untold, the story still unfolds,
How the Father loves us so. That the world may know.*

*As the time drew near for Immanuel,
From His throne on high, God sent Gabriel
To Nazareth to Mary and to a carpenter,
To tell them of the Baby who would soon be born to her. REFRAIN:*

*Finally, one midnight near the fields of Bethlehem,
The shepherds found the glory of the Lord surrounding them
And heard angels bringing good news of great joy for all men! REFRAIN:*

“Somewhere in Your Silent Night”

**ALL: Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
‘Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

INTERLUDE

*All is calm and all is bright ev’rywhere but in your heart tonight.
They’re singing carols of joy and peace,
But you feel too far gone and too far out of reach.*

*REFRAIN: Somewhere in your silent night
Heaven hears the song your broken heart has cried.
Hope is here, just lift your head, for Love has come to find you
Somewhere in your silent night.*

*From heaven’s height to manger low,
There is no distance the Prince of Peace won’t go.
From manger low to Calv’ry’s hill,
When your pain runs deep, His love runs deeper still.
He has always loved you, child, and He always will. REFRAIN:*

*Lift your head, lift your heart.
Emmanuel will meet you where you are.
He knows your hurt. He knows your name,
And you’re the very reason that He came. REFRAIN:*

“Come as You Are”

Come out of sadness, from wherever you've been.

Come, brokenhearted, let rescue begin.

Come find your mercy, O sinner, come kneel.

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

REFRAIN: Lay down your burdens; lay down your shame.

All who are broken, lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home, you're not too far.

Lay down your hurt, lay down your heart; come as you are.

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed.

Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.

There's rest for the weary, a rest that endures.

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure. REFRAIN:

Fall in His arms, come as you are.

There's joy for the morning; sinner, come kneel,

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal. REFRAIN:

O come and bow before Him. Bring Him all your burdens.

Come as you are, give Him your heart. Christ, the Lord.

“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

Solos by Johnathan Powell and Deb Santillo

In the bleak midwinter all creation groans,

For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone,

Light is breaking in a stable for a throne

REFRAIN: And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

If I were a wise man, I would travel far.

And if I were a shepherd, I would do my part,

But poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart. REFRAIN:

*Here within a manger lies the One who made the starry skies,
This Baby born for sacrifice, Christ the Messiah.
Into our hopes, into our fears, the Savior of the world appears,
The Promise of eternal years. Christ the Messiah. REFRAIN:*

*You are the only King forever. Almighty God, we lift You higher.
You are the only King forever. Forevermore You are victorious.
You are the only King forever. Almighty God, we lift You higher.
You are the only King forever. Forevermore You are victorious.*

*We lift our banner high. We lift the name of Jesus.
From age to age You reign. Your Kingdom has no end. REFRAIN:*

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come 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.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Christmas Angels" – arr. Lloyd Larson
Christine Eid, flute; Chuy Ramirez, clarinet

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who 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 trespasses as we forgive those**

who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you in humility and repentance.

C: **These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring joy, hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion.**

L: We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough. You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still".

C: **Help us to hear you. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true joy and peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" – Blue Hymnal #504

**REFRAIN: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry where;
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 our Savior's birth. REFRAIN:**

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN:**

(“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”, text from American Negro Songs and Spirituals, copyright 1940 Mrs. John W. Work III, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

POSTLUDE: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” – Mark Hayes
Carol Blase and Karrie Kikeh, piano duet

+ + +

2021 CANTATA CHOIR

Bass

Bruce Blase
Nick Colombo
Ben Hugo
Will Hugo

Tenor

Tim Anderson
Johnathan Powell
Andrew Wagner

Alto

Brenda Hugo

Katie Landwehr
Deb Santillo

Soprano

Judie Colaianni
Maria Davis
Jacqueline Hed
Lori Krueger
Kristen Landwehr
Sarah Meier
Sydney Naber
Michelle Wermerskirchen

Accompanist: Karrie Kikeh

Narrators: Katie Landwehr & Andrew Wagner

Children's Choir

Aubree Allen
Sean Allen
Adahlia Eames
Robert Eames
Cecelia Kikeh
Ben Kretschman
Patti Kretschman
Parker Kyseth
Trinity Martin

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

5:30 p.m. -

Lay Minister: Larry Betzold

Acolyte: Parker Kyseth

10:00 a.m. -

Lay Minister: Faustina Allen

Ushers: Neaderhiser Team

Power Point: Aubree Allen and Sarai Kretschman

Acolyte: Parker Kyseth

Lector: Marilyn Kirk

Join us for worship next weekend!

Saturday, December 11, 5:30 p.m. –

David's Christian Learning Center (daycare) Christmas service:
"Light of the World"

Sunday, December 12, 10:00 a.m. –

Children's Ministries Christmas service:
"Follow!"