



ADVENT 3: When the Poor Ones

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 12, 2021

5300 10th Avenue South · Minneapolis, MN 55417 · 612-825-6846 · nokomisheights.org
a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Nokomis Heights is a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Congregation. We believe the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to cultural or ethnic background; race; sexual orientation; gender identity; physical or mental abilities; socio-economic, marital, or family status; gender; or age. We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, their partners and their families into full participation in the life and ministry of this congregation.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors	Kristen Capel, Steven Delzer
Organist	Julie Urban
Instrumentalist	Kim Bretheim, cello
Vocalists	Sara Birkeland, Johan Christopherson
Lector	Heather Magnuson
Sacristans	Marian Blattner, Emma Lofthus
Recording/Editing	Dana Lonn

In our prayers this week: Casey Austad, Linda Austad, Jerry Casterton, Rich Gronner, Jennifer Harris, Dee Levine, Charlie Olson, Dick Pelinka, Blanca Raniolo's sister Nelly, and Eric and Piper Roome

In-person worship in the Sanctuary, Sundays, at 10:00 am.

**Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am,
Sunday School in the Nokomis Room at 9:00 am.**

Masks are required.

Online worship premieres at 10:00 am every Sunday.

Find us online on Facebook and YouTube!

www.nokomisheights.org



**NOKOMIS
HEIGHTS**

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2021

10:00 A.M.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“When the Poor Ones”

Roberts

WELCOME

CANDLE LIGHTING

LEADER: Each week

as we approach the Advent
of our Savior Jesus Christ
on Christmas,
we acknowledge what God’s people
have always known:
Even when God is active in this world,
hope is a work in progress.
Each candle on our wreath
represents a person
or a place
or a moment in time
that still awaits God’s goodness.
Yet we are witnesses to God’s work in this world.
Just as a small spark
can give new life to a dead wick,
we believe
the fire of God’s presence
can ignite God’s purpose in this place.

**ALL: God, through your love,
a familiar light
can banish the fear of the other;
Through your love,
the warmth of good cheer
can extinguish cold-hearted injustice.
Through your love,
the song of faith
can rekindle hope for the hopeless.**

LEADER: We light these candles as a small act of our great anticipation.

During the singing of the hymn, the first three candles on the Advent Wreath are lit:

HYMN 240 ELW (st. 3)

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**ALL: O Christ, as we wait for you
we feel the pressures of the world
warning of want,
sanctioning self-interest,
obscuring compassion.
Strengthen us
to uproot greed
and allow faith, hope, and love
to flourish.
As we prepare your highway,
let us see you
walking our way.
Amen**



Español: 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y
 2 Ven, y te - je un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -
English: 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to
 2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the



li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,
 nan - do en la ver - dad, pa - ra
 set your peo - ple free. From op -
 road of ser - vant - hood; give new



na - ce en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -
 que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va en ple - na li - ber -
 pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -
 life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to



der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -
 tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre el fu - tu - ro de tu
 ty. Come, re - lease from ev - 'ry pris - on those who
 good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your



ti - cia y a - flic - ción; ven, re - u - ne nues - tros
 rei - no de a - le - grí - a. Ven, de - rrum - ba - es - te gran
 suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the
 joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man



pue - blos en a - mor y en com - pren - sión.
 mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che y dí - a.
 rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.
 sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

WORD

THE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

LEADER: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

LEADER: John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

SERMON HYMN 725 ELW (st. 1-2)

"When the Poor Ones"



1 *Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne ya ún re-par-te,*
1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;
2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;
3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;
4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed ya-gua nos da,
when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;
when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;
when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;
when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:
when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;
when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us;
when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:
when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

Refrain / Estribillo



Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;
We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.
we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Introduction

LEADER: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence

LEADER: Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet.
Hear us, O God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

LEADER: Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity.

Hear us, O God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

LEADER: Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day, especially... *(we pray for members and friends in need of prayer).*

Hear us, O God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

LEADER: Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians, especially Julie, Sara and all who offer their gifts of music at Nokomis Heights. Thank you for the gift of music that gives language to our heart and allows us to join our voices to the song of all creation.

Hear us, O God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

Conclusion

LEADER: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

ALL: Amen

4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;

when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;

when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

Refrain / Estribillo

Va Dios mis - mo en nues-tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar;
We see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way;

va Dios mis - mo en nues-tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.
we see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way.

SHARING THE PEACE

LEADER: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

MEAL

GENEROSITY MOMENT

OFFERING 695 ELW (st. 2)

“As Saints of Old”

2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;

to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.

The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:

a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.

OFFERING PRAYER

**ALL: God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: 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**

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Lost in the Night"

Maynard

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**LEADER: Most High God, you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.**

ALL: Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 264 ELW (st. 1-2)

“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!

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!

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!

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

SENDING

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Moment of silence

POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Krentz Organ

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Place of Worship. Space for Questions.