



ADVENT 2: Freedom Is Coming

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 5, 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	Tom O'Mara
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; Mission Partners: Trinity and St. Peder's Lutheran churches, Community Emergency Service (CES), and Wapo Bible Camp.

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

**Adult Forum in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am,
Sunday School in Fellowship Hall 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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2021

10:00 A.M.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Haan

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Freedom Is Coming”

Oh, freedom.
Freedom is coming.
Oh, yes, I know.

Oh, Jesus.
Jesus is coming.
Oh, yes, I know.

WELCOME

CANDLE LIGHTING

L: 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.

**C: 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.**

L: We light this candle as a small act of our great anticipation.

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

HYMN 240 ELW (st. 2)

“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

**C: God who is already among us,
 yet is the One for whom we wait,
 help us to prepare for you.
 In our hearts,
 in our homes,
 in our world,
 let us lift what is low
 and smooth what is rough,
 so that for each person we meet,
 your presence is so apparent
 they can't help but sing for joy.
 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 GOSPEL

Luke 1:68-79; 3:1-6

L: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler 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 region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

SERMON HYMN (ACS 903)

“Freedom Is Coming”

“Freedom Is Coming” is a South African freedom song from the anti-apartheid movement. It became part of global hymnody in the 1980s. Its call-and-response format reminds singers of the interdependent nature of freedom in Christ and echoes John the Baptist’s call in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord.

Oh, freedom.
Freedom is coming.
Oh, yes, I know.

Oh, Jesus.
Jesus is coming.
Oh, yes, I know.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Introduction

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

A brief silence

L: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill, especially... (*members and friends in need of prayer*). Grant them healing and wholeness.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Conclusion

L: 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.

C: Amen

PRAYER RESPONSE (ACS 903)

Oh, freedom.
Freedom is coming.
Oh, yes, I know.

SHARING THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: 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;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics, and the bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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 second system of musical notation continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are: "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:

The third system of musical notation continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are: "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.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are: "a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new."

OFFERING PRAYER

**C: 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

**C: 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 "Each Winter as the Year Grows Older" Cherwien

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**L: 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.
C: Amen**

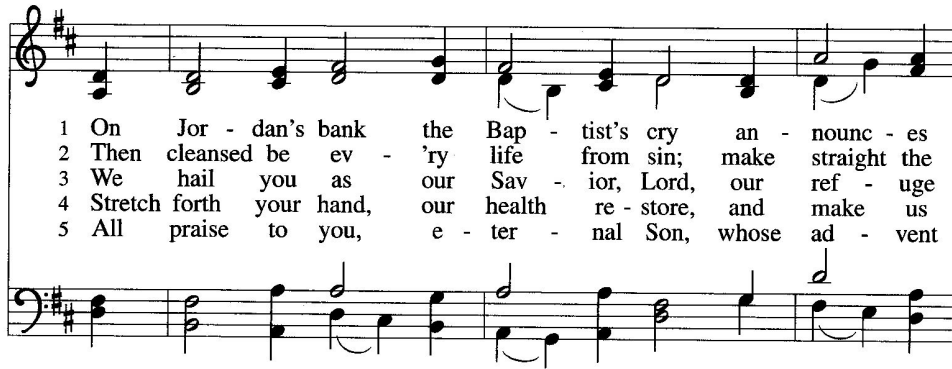
SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

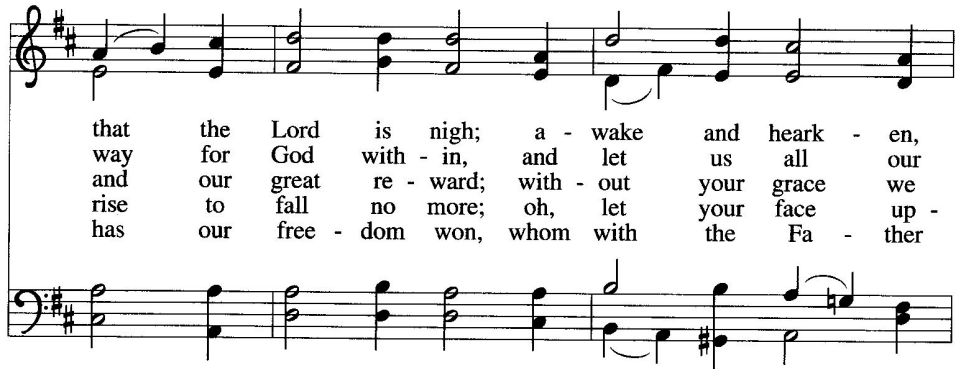
BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 249 ELW (st. 1-3)

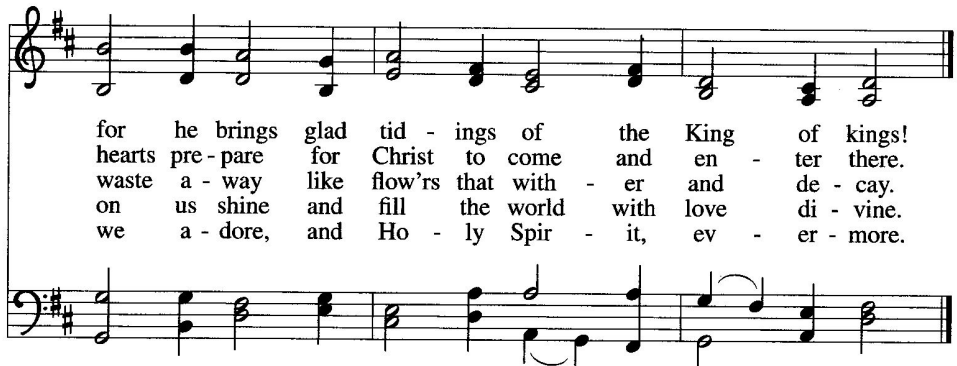
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

+ SENDING

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

C: Thanks be to God!

Moment of silence

POSTLUDE

“On Jordan’s Bank”

Zabel

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HEIGHTS

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.