

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The four Advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. Each of the four candles has been assigned a special name with special significance.

The Prophecy Candle ... is the 1st candle lit the first week in Advent. It is symbolic of the long years of waiting during which the prophets, inspired of God, kept alive the hope that the Son of God was coming to redeem His people from their sins.

The Bethlehem Candle ... is the 2nd candle lit. It symbolizes the preparations being made for the coming of the Christ-child. The prophecy in Micah 5:2 that foretold Jesus' birthplace at Bethlehem may seem to be a minor revelation, but it shows how God prepared even the least detail for the coming of Christ.

The Shepherds' Candle ... is the 3rd candle lit and reminds us of our responsibility to share the Savior and His promises. The shepherds left their task and went with haste to see the Christ-child; then they returned to joyfully tell others about the good news of the Savior.

The Angels' Candle ... is lit the 4th week of Advent. It reminds us of the activity of the angels before and after Jesus' birth, bearing messages, ministering, protecting, praising; they will be with Jesus at His final coming on Judgment Day, to gather the nations.

The Christ Candle ... is the white candle in the center, and is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born.

The light these candles put forth seems small; so does the gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.

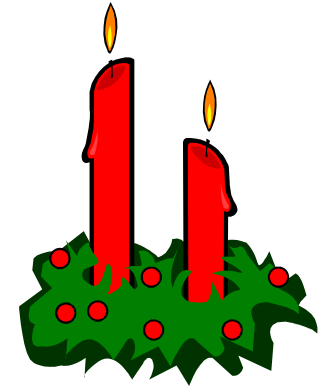
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Advent II

DECEMBER 8, 2013 – 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Pre-service Meditation: Ps. 130, pg. 153

Organist: Bonnie Cornish

Pastor: Opening Prayer

Hymn 66 - Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Pastor: The Invocation

People: *Amen.*

Pastor: Beloved of God, the Lord Himself invites us to come into His presence for worship, freely acknowledging our sins, as we look to His throne of Grace for forgiveness in Christ. Let us, therefore, confess our sins together.

People: *Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved you above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.*

Announcements

All Sing: *O Jesus Christ, the only Son, Of God Your heav'nly Father,
You did for all our sins atone, And Your lost sheep You gather.
O Lamb of God, to You on high, From depths of woe we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, Jesus!*

Pastor: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord: “Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Lift up your hearts! With the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ and by His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

All Sing: *All glory be to God on high, Who has our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended; The Fa-
ther's love, the Savior's birth, Bring peace, good will, to all the earth;
Oh, thank Him for His goodness!*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Pastor: Prayer for the Day

People: *Amen.*

1st Scripture Reading – Colossians 1:11-22

... strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by

- **Today** — A Church Council meeting is scheduled to follow this morning's worship service.
- **Next Sunday** — Grace-Sleepy Eye worship services begin at 9 a.m. Worship here at Faith begins at 10:45 a.m.
- **Carl Syverson Update:** Carl Syverson continues to endure complications from various health problems he has been dealing with for some time now. Carl was recently hospitalized for an infection in his foot, but has since been released and is recovering at home. Also, due to kidney issues, Carl is scheduled to begin dialysis treatments in the near future. Please remember Carl in your thoughts and prayers.
- **Thank You:** Thank you to those who helped out with Christmas decorating here at church after last Sunday's worship service.
- **December 22 Children's Christmas Service:** The Grace-Sleepy Eye and Faith-New Ulm children will present a children's Christmas service here at Faith on Sunday, December 22, during our regular morning worship. There will be a practice for the service here at Faith on Saturday, December 21, at 10 a.m.
- **Christmas Bags Sign-Up:** A sign-up sheet is posted here at church for those willing to help contribute to “Christmas Bags” for participants in this year's December 22 Children's Christmas service here at Faith. The Women of Faith will contribute the apples for this year's bags. We are planning for approximately 35 bags. Please have all items here at church for assembly of the bags by Friday, December 20.
- **“God's Creation” Calendars:** New 2014 “God's Creation” calendars are being made available for \$4 apiece through the Women's group at Grace-Sleepy Eye. If you are interested in purchasing one of these calendars, please indicate this to Pastor Libby.

Our Response of Faith — December 1, 2013

Attendance: 24

Unified Budget.....	\$278.00
CLC Mission Development Fund	\$ 50.00
Total	\$328.00

Hymn 103 - To Shepherds as Thy Watched by Night

The Sermon – Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

“What’s in a Name — Prince of Peace”

The Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Hymn 106 - The People That in Darkness Sat

The Offering

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer + The Benediction

All: Amen, amen, amen!

Hymn 375 - If Thy Beloved Son, O God

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Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight ...

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia! *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ... (1 Timothy 1:15) Alleluia!*

Congregation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2nd Scripture Reading – Luke 2:8-18

People: *Glory be to Thee, O Lord!*

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Pastor: Here ends the 2nd Scripture reading.

People: *Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

The Apostles’ Creed -- Hymnal, pg. 12