

Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church

“Sharing the Blessing of God’s Grace with Aloha”

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5th Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

6:00 pm

God calls us to be a welcoming people! Welcome to people new to faith, to Christians of every flavor, and to long time Lutherans. Welcome to all with no church home, who need strength, want to follow, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new guests and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, ability and gift, to gay and straight, to old and young, to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. This is a place where we live past the labels, where we are welcome to celebrate and grieve, rejoice and recover. This is a place where our lives are made new. Welcome to worship God on this day!

An Advent Explanation

*The Western Church Year is structured around the two great celebrations of the Christian Church—**Easter** and **Christmas**. Easter, based on the Jewish Passover, is determined by the phase of the moon. It is a “moveable” date. Christmas, on the other hand, is a fixed date determined in the 4th century to coincide with the pagan observance of the winter solstice, which at that time fell on December 25.*

In the early church there was much diversity in regard to rites and calendars. Local churches were not always in sync with one another. Even today there is not uniformity in the observances of the Church Year, especially between the Western Church and the Eastern Church.

*In 2006 **The Advent Project** (theadventproject.org) began as a continuing seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy. This ecumenical project proposes to expand the observance of Advent from 4 Sundays to 7 Sundays in order to reclaim Advent “as the time of preparation for the coming of Christ at the end of time even as we welcome his appearance in our weekly assembly and in the world to which we are sent.” This expansion of Advent to 7 Sundays is an attempt to enable the Church to focus once again on the **full manifestation of the reign of God**.*

***The Advent Project** does not change any of the assigned readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. The majority of the readings in November already have an end-time focus. The final three Sundays of the 2017 Church Year (12, 19, 26 November) are simply given an Advent overlay.*

This proposal has great attractiveness for us at Calvary by the Sea Lutheran because our current Advent Worship observances are curtailed by the Honolulu Marathon and by PAC Sunday. Thus, in expanding Advent to 7 Sundays we are able as a community of faith to explore more fully and completely what it means to “long for the Lord’s coming.”

*This is the third season that Calvary joins **The Advent Project** as we all strive to follow Jesus more closely both as a community of faith and as individual disciples.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

SOUNDING OF THE PŪ

Please gather as the sounding of the conch shell calls us to worship.

RINGING OF THE BELL

During the *Ringing of the Bell* please center your thoughts on *Makua*—God the Creator, *Keiki Kane*—Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and *‘Uhane Hemolele*—the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

CONFESSION OF SIN, *Kahu Tim*

KAHU: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

ALL: Amen.

KAHU: Let us prepare the way of the Lord
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful Creator,
**ALL: we have made ourselves gods.
We claim what is not ours,
neglect what you have given,
and think ourselves smarter and better
than others.**

Forgive us for rejecting you.

**In your mercy, teach us to forgive ourselves and others,
accept our humanity,
and serve you in newness of life.**

**May we receive the gift of your presence this Advent
season through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *standing*

KAHU: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ
your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this
good news!

ALL: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 257 *standing* “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

and LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 5

In the medieval Western church—from the time of Charlemagne in the eighth century or earlier, seven “O antiphons,” (sentences beginning with ‘O’), became the basis for this hymn we sing today (O Emmanuel; O Wisdom; O Lord of might; O Branch of Jesse; O Key of David; O Dayspring; O King of nations). These seven verses were sung consecutively on the seven days before Christmas. This hymn is the quintessential Advent hymn.

GREETING OF GUESTS AND SHARING OF ALOHA *seated*

KAHU: May God’s aloha be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40: 1–11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

ONE: ¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
 says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *standing*

“Ka Mana‘o ‘I‘o”



Ka ma-na - 'o - 'i - 'o, o ko kā-kou A - ku - a, Faith - ful, faith-ful is our God.



Ka ma-na - 'o - 'i - 'o, o ko kā-kou A - ku - a, Faith - ful, faith-ful is our God.

“Ka Mana‘o ‘I‘o (Faithful, Faithful Is Our God),” by Joe Camacho, © 1999 Joe Camacho; arr. John L. Bell, © 2002 GIA.
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This is the chorus from a song composed by Joe Camacho as the theme song for the 1999 Big Island Liturgy and Arts Conference, also known as BILAC.

GOSPEL *standing*

Mark 1: 1–8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

- KAHU: ¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his

sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

KAHU: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON IN DRAMA, SONG AND MOVEMENT, PAC

"Lord, We Lift Your Name on High"

"Little Donkey"

Kaili Shykowski and Kalia Sylvester, soloists

"'Twas the Evening Before Christmas"

Angel 1: Kaili Shykowski
Angel 2: Maila Shykowski
Angel 3: Ashley Robinson

Shepherd: Kiana Sylvester
Shepherd 1: Damien Hamilton
Shepherd 2: Kalia Sylvester
Shepherd 3: Tallula Sylvester

King 1: Braden Robinson
King 2: Tyler Borrer
King 3: Ryder Brink

Narrator 1: Ferris Young
Narrator 2: Amelia Hamilton

Mary: Bella Sylvester
Joseph: Carter Holden
God: Oa Dunn

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Ashley Robinson and Maila Shykowski, soloists

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *standing*

"The Apostles' Creed"

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *standing*

Please follow the guidance of Kahu Tim as he leads our prayers and intercessions.

Anyone desiring individual prayer and intercessions please contact Kahu Tim or members of the Stephen Ministry team at the conclusion of the worship service.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS, *Taylor and Ina* “Mary, Did You Know?”

DOXOLOGY *standing*

“Ho‘onani i ka Makua Mau”

Ho‘onani i ka Makua mau. Ke keiki me ka ‘Uhane nō.
Ke Akua mau ho‘omaika‘i pū. Kō kēia ao kō kēlā ao. Amene.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERING PRAYER *standing*

KAHU: Savior of the nations, come.

Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE FED

GREAT THANKSGIVING *standing*

KAHU: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

KAHU: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

KAHU: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

KAHU: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In a similar manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(contemporary)*

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.

At Calvary by the Sea all those who have a relationship with Jesus Christ and those who are seeking such a relationship are invited to experience the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You are invited to follow the direction of the Kahu and come forward to encircle the altar area. There are kneelers for those who prefer to kneel. Dip the bread in either the red wine or the white grape juice and then eat the element.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *seated*

KAHU: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT

SENDING HYMN 266 *standing*

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

Alberto Taulé, a native of Catalonia, composed both the text and tune of this hymn. It was first published in 1972 in Catalan. The 1995 English translation is by Madeleine Marshall, a graduate of St. Olaf. She retired in 2010 from the faculty of California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING, *Kahu Tim*

KAHU: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness,
shine upon you and
scatter the darkness from before your path.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

ALL: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

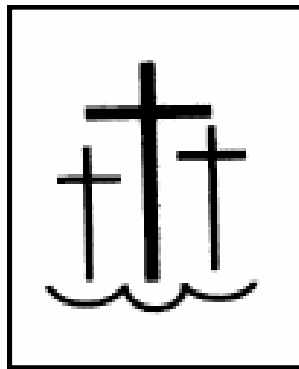
KAHU: *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOING FORTH, *Ina*

“Three Kings of Orient”



Tonight, December 10, 2017

MINISTERS: All Members of Calvary by the Sea

KAHU: Tim Mason

WORSHIP AND THE ARTS: Tom Poole

ORGANIST AND PIANIST: Ina Young

MUSIC: *Performing Arts @ Calvary*; Taylor Silva, *soprano*

INSTRUMENTALISTS: Marc Adelberger, Edwin Ahlers, Charlie Holdaway, Chris Jansen, Bruce Kau, Amie Lawyer, Jon Osorio, Tim Sprowls

READER, USHERS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND ALTAR CARE: All Tribes

WORSHIP PRODUCTION SUPPORT: Fletcher Young, Erin Day, Kanoa Pick

SERVICE MUSIC: “Ka Mana’o ‘I’o (Faithful, Faithful Is Our God),” by Joe Camacho, © 1999 Joe Camacho; arr. John Bell, © 2002 GIA Publications; “’Twas the Evening of Christmas,” by Glenys Nellis, © 2017 Harper Collins; “Mary, Did You Know?” by Mark Lowry and buddy Greene, © 1991 Word Music; “Three Kings of Orient,” by Carlos Staszkeski, © 2013 Wayne Leupold Editions. All music used by permission (One.License.net A-714410).