



## PLUM Worship

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

3:00 p.m.

PRELUDE Go Light Your World - Be a Beacon

<https://youtu.be/wN5SILxm55Q>

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Let your light shine before others

**That they may see our good works**

And give glory to our God.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

HYMN Christ, Be Our Light <https://youtu.be/dIDPd8d3oQE>

- 1 *Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.*

Refrain

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

- 2 *Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. Refrain*
- 3 *Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. Refrain*
- 4 *Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. Refrain*

- 5 *Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come. Refrain*

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Radiant God,

**You have come to live among us, yet we fail time and again to see you in the faces of our neighbors. We look to ourselves instead of those in need. We seek the shallow comforts of things we can buy instead of the deep and lasting comfort of your presence. Forgive our stubborn refusal to see, and open our eyes to the joy and wonder of your incarnation.**

Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy. The God of boundless grace forgives you all your sins, renewing your spirit for the sake of Immanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

#### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

<https://youtu.be/Se8EOErrkvq>

- 1 *Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.*
- 2 *Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.*

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

With Esther we see plainly the injustice at work in our world, O God. And with Esther we know it is our call to stand up to injustice whatever the cost.

*(light candle 1)* We light this first candle as a beacon of hope for those who wait.

*(light candle 2)* We light this second candle as the fire of courage that we might bear witness to your justice.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of grace and mercy, With Esther we fear for the future of our people and all the earth. As we wait for your promised savior, give us hope that all will be made right in you. **Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### FIRST READING

**Esther 4:1-17**

Readers: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Esther, Mordecai

**Narrator 1:** When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

**Narrator 2:** When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them.

**Narrator 1:** Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people.

**Narrator 2:** Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying,

**Esther:** "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days."

**Narrator 1:** When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther,

**Mordecai:** "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

**Narrator 2:** Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai,

**Esther:** "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish."

**Narrator 1:** Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL

**Matthew 5:13-16**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

<sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

**PASTOR ALEXANDER SUMO**

### HYMN Let Streams of Living Justice

<https://youtu.be/ehWSoU4PVhU>

- 1 Let streams of living justice  
flow down upon the earth;  
give freedom's light to captives,  
let all the poor have worth.  
The hungry's hands are pleading,  
the workers claim their rights,  
the mourners long for laughter,  
the blinded seek for sight.  
Make liberty a beacon,  
strike down the iron pow'r;  
abolish ancient vengeance:  
proclaim your people's hour.*
- 2 For healing of the nations,  
for peace that will not end,  
for love that makes us lovers,  
God grant us grace to mend.  
Weave our varied gifts together;  
knit our lives as they are spun;  
on your loom of time enroll us  
till our thread of life is run.  
O great weaver of our fabric,  
bind church and world in one;  
dye our texture with your radiance,  
light our colors with your sun.*
- 3 Your city's built to music;  
we are the stones you seek;  
your harmony is language;*

*we are the words you speak.  
Our faith we find in service,  
our hope in others' dreams,  
our love in hand of neighbor;  
our homeland brightly gleams.  
Inscribe our hearts with justice;  
your way—the path untried;  
your truth—the heart of stranger;  
your life—the Crucified.*

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 INTERCESSION**

Confident that your promises are sure, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Through the prayers and fasting of Esther, Mordecai, and the faithful Jews, you worked behind the scenes to carry out your miracles. Show up in our lives in big and small ways, and give us eyes to see where and when you are at work. We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

All creation hangs in delicate balance to nurture and sustain all things, including us. Help us to be faithful stewards of all that you have made. We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

Give your world's leaders wisdom to listen to the voices of those with less power, as those voices may speak with greater wisdom and truth. We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

Healing comes in many forms. You graciously offer healing of bodies, souls, and minds, and also healing of relationships, communities, finances, and vocations. Grant healing to all who are in need, (*especially*). We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

Lift up the lowly and bring down the haughty, so that this world might function according to your will; a beautiful kingdom of heaven on earth. We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

Lord, you know what is best for the ministry of PLUM. Continue to open our eyes, ears, and hearts, that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With gratitude we remember all your saints who have spoken courageously on behalf of others. May we speak as they spoke, until we join the eternal conversation with you. We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

For what else do we pray? [Silence]  
We call on our God, **O come, o come Immanuel.**

In faith, hope, and love, we lift our prayers to you, in the name of your promised savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

#### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church*

Let us pray. God, you call us to bold action on behalf of the world. Accept now these gifts for the good of all your beloved creation. **Amen.**

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

Again, after supper, he 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 in remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the mystery of  
our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the  
Lord taught us.

**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.**

### INVITATION

God sets a feast before us in the presence of our enemies,  
and strengthens us for the work ahead. Let us prepare our  
hearts and minds that we might answer God's call. Come  
and be satisfied.

Take and eat the body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**  
Take and drink the blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

### COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen  
you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have  
remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in  
the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day  
when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and

strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your  
promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our  
Savior and Lord. Amen.

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-  
expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit  
guide your journey, † now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN Hark, the Glad Sound!** <https://youtu.be/L18cvBmShLE>

- 1 *Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.*
- 2 *He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.*
- 3 *He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.*
- 4 *Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

#### COFFEE HOUR

#### Advent Through Your Imagination:

Praying with Luke, chapters 1 and 2.

Join PLUM on Zoom,

Thursdays, Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 7pm.

All are welcome!

The call-in line for PLUM Worship Services and meetings:

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: (646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541

#### PLUM Pastoral Team:

The Reverend John Gropp 412-680-7867

The Reverend Brenda Henry 412-390-8005

The Reverend Susan Devine 412-496-4889

The Reverend Dr. Alexander Sumo 614-218-6730

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and  
would like to support our ministry, please send donations to:

**Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries, 405 Kennedy Avenue,  
Duquesne, PA 15110**