

Sunday, November 28, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A few reminders of the goings on in our church and community... If you'd like to receive a weekly email letting you know what's coming up at LaVale United simply call, email, or reach us through private message on Facebook, and we will put you on the One Call Now list.
- Sunday School for all ages, Pre-K-High School and beyond! Join us for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. [Register your kids here](#). Download the [Parent Cue](#) app for more involvement. Join the youth on Sunday evening @ 6:30.
- **Thank you!** to all who gave for Thanksgiving. We gave away over 130 dinners to families who needed them.
- LaVale United has a ramp for anyone who needs it to access the church building. Thanks to all who made that possible!
- Food pantry needs volunteers. If you'd like to help, call the church office.
- Dig out your coats from last year, because the United Methodist Women want to redistribute them. Donate for people in need in our area.
- If you have prayer requests, please let the church office know by phone, email, or private message on Facebook: LaVale United.
- Bell Choir is looking for ringers. You're welcome to join.
- Please let the church office know if you need prayers, or would like a prayer quilt. We are happy to include you or your loved ones in public or confidential prayers.
- Advent begins November 28. Special devotionals are available: Zoom Bible study led by local UMC clergy, Be Light devotional at www.bwcumc.org > Advent, Come Home for Christmas devotional @ www.umcdiscipleship.org > Advent and Christmas > Spiritual Practice.
- If you would like a "Just Be Kind" lawn sign (\$10), or a daily devotional book (free), please call the church office and request it.

Questions? Call the church office (301) 722-6800.

Welcome to worship.

We'd like to thank all who are joining us in person, in the parking lot, on YouTube, Facebook, and on WCBC. We see you and you are welcomed here. Feel free to comment, react, like, and share this video if you feel led.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Please Rise)**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth
and bring my promised salvation to Israel.
The Lord is our righteousness.
The days are surely coming, says our God,
when justice and mercy will be executed
throughout the land.

The Lord is our righteousness.
The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when my promised one will teach transgressors my ways,
and heal the world with love and mercy.
The Lord is our righteousness.

PRELUDE/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER (Please Remain Standing)

But when these signs begin to happen,
stand erect and raise your heads. Luke 21:28

We shudder at signs we see.
Anxieties bombard us.
Our hearts are afraid.
Lord, Let us be vigilant, hold our heads high.
Make us an Advent people
with hope as our stronghold.

Jesus,
You once came into our world with all its sorrows.
Keep us awake and alert to your presence
in the midst of our struggles now.
Tell us again that your love
will triumph.

Written by Anne Osdieck, and posted on The Center for Liturgy Website of Saint Louis
University, <http://liturgy.slu.edu>.

***OPENING HYMN (Please Remain Standing)** – Blest Be The God Of Israel (Merle's Tune)

Verse 1

Blest be the God of Israel
Who comes to set us free
He visits and redeems us
He grants us liberty
The prophets spoke of mercy
Of freedom and release
God shall fulfill His promise
And bring His people peace

Verse 2

He from the house of David
A child of grace has giv'n
A Savior comes among us

To raise us up to heav'n
Before Him goes His herald
Forerunner in the way
The prophet of salvation
The harbinger of day

Verse 3

On prisoners of darkness
The sun begins to rise
The dawning of forgiveness
Upon the sinner's eyes
He guides the feet of pilgrims
Along the paths of peace
Oh bless our God and Savior
With songs that never cease

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Hal H. Hopson | Michael Perry

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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

33:14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

33:15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

33:16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Luke 21:25-36

21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

21:26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

21:27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

21:28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

21:29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees;

21:30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

21:31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

21:32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

21:34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly,

21:35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

21:36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Reader One: We have endured these past few years and know that there is more to face before us. We don't know if we have the strength to withstand what might be around the next corner. And we wonder who will stand with us, who will have our back, who will occupy our corner.

Reader Two: Who is with us? That is what we begin to wonder these days. Who will light our way and chart our course? Who is on our side, who will welcome us home again?

Reader One: Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to a hope. A hope that calls us home. Our true home, where we're welcomed and loved and included. Where there is justice and equality and peace. It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.

Reader Two: We light this candle, as a sign of our hope, our strong hope that there is a way to go home. To the home in Christ, and it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now. It's time to go home.

Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.

(REV. FRANKIE) SCRIPTURE READING/SERMON

PRAYER QUILTS

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God of new beginnings, as we share our tithes and offerings with you, we are filled with hope. We enter the season of Advent with expectation; we have left behind us a time of fear, isolation, and uncertainty; and we raise our heads because we know our redemption is coming near. May our gifts be dedicated to help heal the brokenness of our world and to welcome our Messiah into the world once again. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Luke 21:25-36)

***CLOSING HYMN (Please Rise)** - Cry Of My Heart

Chorus

It is the cry of my heart
To follow You
It is the cry of my heart
To be close to You
It is the cry of my heart
To follow
All of the days of my life

Verse 1

Teach me Your holy ways oh Lord
So I can walk in Your truth
Teach me Your holy ways oh Lord
And make me wholly devoted to You

Verse 2

Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do
Open my heart up more and more
And make it wholly devoted to You

Ending

All of the days of my life (4X)

CCLI Song # 844980

Terry Butler

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***BENEDICTION (Please Rise)**

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

***POSTLUDE**

***DISMISSAL**