

First Sunday of Advent
ELW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, November 29, 2020



All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA

722 Rockbridge Road SW

Lilburn, GA 30047

Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Interim Pastor

John Womack, Director of Music and Organist

www.allsaintsilburn.org

Introduction to the day

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

---GATHERING---

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

ZOOM NARTHEX TIME

9:50-10:05 am

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisette Branscomb
Congregational President

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Blessed be God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.**

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✙ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing,
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

lives now in - side us for - ev - er,
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness,
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der,
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

GREETING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.**

Let us pray.

Miriam McCann

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

---WORD---

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

Miriam McCann

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

John Womack

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (*Ps. 80:7*)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
⁴O LORD| God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R
⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R
¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Miriam McCann

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Alleluia. Show us your steadfast | love, O LORD,* and grant us | your salvation. *Alleluia.* (Ps. 85:7)

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know

when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all:
Keep awake.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 245

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Miriam McCann

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (*Local feeding or housing ministries may be named*). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle.

Holy God, we pray especially for:

- Maddy Faass; Jean Freeman; the family of Genet Johnson; Charlene Meyer.
- Kathryn Stoner; Tom Miller; Joyce Holdrich; Jeff Smith; Buster Lanham.
- Keith Kessler and family; Cindy Murphy; Robert and Betty; Jessica Kraus.
- Sister Roberta; Sandy Staven; Cherie Mason; Margaret; June Hix.
- Trudy Hanson; Sharon O'Connor; Gail Guffey; Hilton and Patti Austin; Marjorie O'Brien.
- Jerry Barnes; Jim Scobee; Charlie Kuni; Ted Haag.
- Leisa Wiggley; Officer Max Brewer; Rosie Marks; Marta.
- Steve Robinson; Margaret Robinson; Rick Robinson; Sondra Fowler.
- Chris Holdrich, Stephanie, and all healthcare workers.
- Bob, Ingrid, Sonya, and Connie.
- Richard Kraus.
- Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators.
- All those impacted by or in the path of disasters and disaster response workers.
- All Saints' Call Committee.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, especially Marie Zagaglia, and those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

---MEAL---

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/AllSaintsLutheranChurch1/general>

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

OFFERING of Bread and Wine

Preparing your bread and wine

All

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.
Amen.

Miriam McCann

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

+DIALOGUE (ELW P. 107)

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.

+PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

John Womack

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.
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 for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen.

+LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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 TO COMMUNION

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
Come, eat and drink.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond: Amen

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)

John Womack

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Miriam McCann

Let us pray.
Gracious and abundant God,
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
and open our hearts to the world's needs,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

---SENDING---

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

BLESSING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

---PRAYER LIST---

- ❖ Maddy Faass, for healing and pain relief from a broken foot
- ❖ Jean Freeman (mother of a good friend of John Jones), for recurring colon cancer
- ❖ The family of Genet Johnson (Blandon's wife), who have been caught up in violence in Ethiopia and have not been heard from for three weeks
- ❖ Charlene Meyer (mother of Sharon Marion) and Kathryn Stoner (mother of Mary Kay Kates) for comfort and peace living in a facility where there are COVID cases
- ❖ Tom Miller (father-in-law of Abby Yale Miller), for healing in recovery from a brain infection; physical therapy and rehab for 14 weeks
- ❖ Joyce Holdrich, monitoring high heart rate (Afib) condition; recent hospitalization
- ❖ Jeff Smith (cousin of Joann Rosselle), diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- ❖ Buster Lanham (brother-in-law of Angela Kates), chemo and radiation for inoperable Stage 2 pharyngeal cancer
- ❖ Keith Kessler & family (former St. James members), Keith was recently diagnosed with an incurable rare disease. Also for Sharon and Dave Anyan who have been friends with the Kessler family for 40 years
- ❖ Cindy Murphy, back surgery December 14; MRIs in early January to determine treatment for kidney issue
- ❖ Robert (nephew of Betty Bradford), recovery after surgery and other major health concerns; also for his 85 year-old mother Betty (sister-in-law of Betty Bradford), who is his caregiver
- ❖ Jessica Kraus (niece of Bruce Kraus), diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma, prayers for strength as she begins chemotherapy
- ❖ Sister Roberta, for renewed strength and energy
- ❖ Sandy Staven, for relief from hip pain, waiting for a date for hip replacement surgery
- ❖ Cherie Mason, relief from side effects of chemotherapy and from throat discomfort due to medications
- ❖ Margaret (friend of Laura Trittin's mother Carol), stage 4 kidney disease; searching for a living donor
- ❖ June Hix, relief from difficulty walking, sinus issues and severe allergies
- ❖ Trudy Hanson, chemotherapy for breast cancer; radiation to follow
- ❖ Sharon O'Connor, health issues
- ❖ Gail Guffey, mother-in-law of Sandy (Cherie Mason's daughter), in hospice after suffering a massive stroke, now responsive and being considered for rehab
- ❖ Hilton and Patti Austin, for peace and comfort in making the decision to cancel Hilton's laryngectomy surgery in favor of pain management treatment and eventual hospice care
- ❖ Marjorie O'Brien, health issues
- ❖ Jerry Barnes, for COPD and health issues
- ❖ Jim Scobee, recovering from heart valve replacement on October 21, prayers for patience and regained strength and energy.
- ❖ Charlie Kuni, carotid artery issues
- ❖ Ted Haag (friend of Joyce & John Holdrich for 60 yrs), for healing from ongoing lung cancer, undergoing chemo, prognosis is not favorable
- ❖ Leisa Wiggley (friend of All Saints' quilters), for healing from pancreatic cancer

- ❖ APD Officer Max Brewer, now home, for healing and successful rehab and therapy
- ❖ Rosie Marks (Cherie Mason's sister-in-law), for her recovery from colon cancer surgery
- ❖ Marta (long-time friend of Rica Kelly), for healing from health issues
- ❖ Steve Robinson (brother of Rick Robinson) in rehab for diabetes
- ❖ Margaret Robinson (mother-in-law of Sandra Robinson), recovering from broken hip and falls
- ❖ Rick Robinson (Sandra Robinson's husband), for healing
- ❖ Sondra Fowler (cousin of Sandra Robinson), for healing after the death of her husband; thanksgiving that prayers are working and she is doing better
- ❖ Chris Holdrich (John & Joyce Holdrich's grandson) and Stephanie (friend of Joann Rosselle), for guidance and protection in their work as healthcare workers
- ❖ Bob (brother of Cherie Mason), Ingrid, Sonya, Connie – underemployed/unemployed
- ❖ Richard Kraus (father of Bruce Kraus), and others for reassurance and safety living in facilities where COVID-19 may be present
- ❖ Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators, for guidance, wisdom, and cooperation in making wise decisions for all as schools re-open
- ❖ All those impacted by or in the path of disasters and disaster response workers, locally, nationally, and around the world
- ❖ All Saints' Call Committee, as they prepare the Congregational Profile and move ahead in the Call Process
- ❖ Comfort and peace for the family and friends of Marie Zagaglia, special mercies for Jeannette and Ray Sanders in their grief