



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF HONOLULU

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 27, 2020

7:30 PM • via Zoom Meeting login

Circling Star Heavens: A Seasonal Presentation

Welcome to this evening's devotional of art, music, poems and prayers. Featured are Vicar Bree Lloyd, the women of the LCH Women's Bookclub, as readers, and LCH musicians. This zoom presentation will be given only once. Please email the LCH office at LCH@LCHwelcome.org to request a Zoom meeting invitation link.

Welcoming Remarks

Pastor Jeff Lilley

THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent I: Hope

Gathering Hymn *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn* (ELW 261)

text: Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953)

music: Carl F. Schalk (b. 1929)

As the dark awaits the dawn,
so we await your light.
O Star of promise, scatter night,
loving bright, loving bright,
till shades of fear are gone.

As the blue expectant hour
before the silv'ring skies,
we long to see your day arise,
whole and wise, whole and wise,
O lucent Morning Star.

As the moon reflects the sun
until the night's decrease,
may we your healing light release,
living peace, living peace,
unto your holy dawn.

Shine your future on this place,
enlighten ev'ry guest,
that through us stream your holiness,
bright and blest, bright and blest;
come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Advent II: Peace

Choir Quartet *Veiled in Darkness*

text: Douglas LeTell Rights (1891–1956)
music: Glenn Rudolph (b. 1951)

Advent III: Joy

Congregational Hymn *Canticle of the Turning* (ELW 723)
(Refrain: congregation / Verses: choir)

text: Rory Cooney (b. 1952)
music: Irish Traditional

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to those ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths
of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might,
put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *refrain*
3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.
4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *refrain*

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

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Advent IV: Love

Choir Quartet *People Look East* (ELW 248)

text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)
music: French Carol

Advent Wreath *The Christ Candle* A congregational reading from the Iona Community
Darkness and Light: A Creed for Advent

People **We believe in God, robed in splendour,
veiled in mystery,
ruler alike of darkness and light.
We encounter God in Jesus Christ,
who was tested and put to death,
but whose radiance could not be quenched;
whose touch brings a blaze of colour
to a dull, drab world:
reviving the weary, healing the wounded,
unsettling the satisfied.
We walk with god,
guided by the light of God's loving spirit;
the light which enters the shadowed places
of our hearts and leads us into truth and life.
We wait for God,
and for the fulfillment of God's promises;
for the time when the darkness will hold no fear
and the light will show the way,
and creation will be made whole once more
and god's peace will reign forever. Amen.**

THE CIRCLING STAR HEAVENS

A poem by **George Hebert** *A Wreath*

reader: Marlise Tellander

A poem by **Reverend Bruce Robinson** *Matthew 2: Magi*

reader: Paula Wheeler

A poem by **Donna Shoemaker** *Birth Announcement*

reader: Dot Hutchins

A poem by **Vassar Miller** *Morning Person*

reader: Linda Miller



Congregational Hymn *God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* (ELW 771)

text: Catherine Cameron (b. 1927)

music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony* (1835)

God, who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through
the silent fields of space:

we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with you;
great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;

probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined pow'r,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams proved rich with promise;
each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.

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A Poem by Kathleen Housley *An Astronomer's Prayer*

reader: Kathryn Klingebiel

A Poem by Alice Meynell *Christ in the Universe*

reader: Carol Langner

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Sapientia: Wisdom

Choir Anthem *Holy Wisdom*

text: Patrick Michaels (b. 1954)



O Adonai: Lord of Might

Congregational Hymn *The God of Abraham Praise*

text: Fritz Fritschel (1935–2018)

music: Jewish Melody

The God of Abraham praise,
by whose almighty hand
Showed Israel on her pilgrim way
a promised land.

Our Lord will lead us, too,
through deserts and the sea,
That we may hear in all we do,
“I am with thee.”

God’s mystery sublime,
in unconsuming flame
Announced the sacred name divine,
the great I AM.

From bondage captives freed,
their hope and faith restored,
By one who filled their ev’ry need,
eternal Lord.

Great Adonai, our Lord,
whose pow’r the heavens sing,
Is born incarnate, holy Word,
a Child, our king.
As infinite, yet small,
whom worlds cannot contain,
He dwells as Lord within us all
from there to reign.

O Radix Jesse: Root of Jesse

A poem by Malcolm Guite *O Radix Jesse*

reader: Billie Jean Ries

O Clavis David: Key of David

A poem by Pamela Cranston *Advent*
(On a Theme by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

reader: Vicar Briana Lloyd

O Oriens: O Dayspring

Choir Anthem *The First Day of Creation*

text: Thomas H. Troeger (b. 1945)

O Rex Gentium: King of the Nations

A poem by Malcolm Guite *O Rex Gentium*

reader: Josie Bidgood

O Emmanuel: Emmanuel, God with Us

A poem by Malcolm Guite *O Emmanuel*

reader: Marlise Tellander

All:

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
fore you, the lift - ing up of my
hands as an of - fer - ing to you. _____

O God, I call to you, come to me now; O hear my voice when I cry to you.

Keep watch within me, God. Deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.

All praise to the God of all, Creator of life;

All praise to the Christ and the Spirit of love. *to refrain*

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THE CIRCLING STAR HEAVENS

A poem by Jane Kenyon *Mosaic of the Nativity*

reader: Mary Jo Estes

A poem by Martha Lavinia Hoffman *Stars*

reader: Lori McDonald

A poem by David Redding *Adult Advent Announcement*

reader: Mary Jo Estes

A poem by Ted Hughes *Minstrel's Song*

reader: Juditha Murashige

A poem by Malcolm Guite *On the Edge*

reader: Billie Jean Ries

A poem by Richard Caemmerer *The One Who Sets*

reader: Juditha Murashige



Congregational Hymn *Evening Hymn* (Holden)

text: Haugen

Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
loving glow of God's own face,
You who sing creation's story,
shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you,
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.
In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.

Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
love the bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.
You who made the heaven's splendor,
ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all Creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
Loving Spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.

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Choir Anthem *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (ELW 726) text: Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953)
music: William P. Rowan (b. 1951)

1. Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.
2. Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread and children's

- dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes.
3. Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn, find wilder-
ness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. *to refrain*

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

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Congregational Reading *A Creed for 2015*

Fritschel

We believe in God whose creative love touches all life;
Who watches over all creatures with compassionate care;
Who honors our freedom as we search for meaning and value.

We believe in Jesus whose liberating love extends to all people;
Who ministered to the weak, the poor and the lowly;
Who fed the hungry with more than just bread;
Who challenged the powers that be by his demand for justice;
Who committed his own life non-violently
in faithfulness to a divine vision,
The vision of a kingdom we might call a Beloved Community.

We believe in the Holy Spirit whose reconciling love makes for peace;
Whose witness to truth continues to be heard
in the lives of faithful people;
Whose abiding presence heals divisions and discord;
Who inspires us to aim for new ideals
of truth, beauty, and goodness;
Who gathers us together
in communities of mutual caring, adventure, and love.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Jeff Lilley

A special *thank you* for bringing tonight's program to fruition:

The Rev. Jeffrey M. Lilley
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Pianist:
Maika'i Nash

Readers:
The LCH Women's Book Club



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF HONOLULU

*Welcoming to all
worshipping, growing, serving
Christ's community*

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