



UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF ANOKA

Following Jesus, Providing Hope, Making Disciples

Close to Home
Sunday, November 28, 2021

PRELUDE

Noel in G by Louise-Claude Daquin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.

Yes, we are homesick—

**for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for hospitals that run empty.**

We are homesick for the world God promises.

We are homesick, but we are on our way. God is here. God is still creating.

Let us worship Holy God.

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy (#64)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee

Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see

Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

God of the stars and God of our hearts - our days will pass but your words will last.

The earth might fade but your words will last. Our memories might blur but your words will last. The grass will wither but your words will last. The sky could go dark and your words would last. So as we listen today, help us to hold onto what will last. Help us hold onto you.

Gratefully we pray. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Be Present At Our Table (#621)

Be present at our table, Lord, be here and everywhere adored

These mercies bless and grant that we, may feast in fellowship with thee

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts to the Lord. **We lift up our hearts with thanks and praise!**

We are yours, all yours, Holy God, all our lives, all our thanks, all our praise, we give it all to you, with all our bodies, and minds, and voices. We are your people, whom you have called covenant with you, a covenant we have continually broken, and you have continuously sustained. How can we but praise you, joining our voices with the song of angels and saints,

Jesus Christ who comes in our God's name, you are worthy! Lamb of God who died and rose again, you are worthy! Hosanna now we sing! Hosanna now we sing!

You are holy, O God! You are worthy, O Christ! Worthy when you preached the good news that God's kingdom has drawn near and as you have gathered disciples, then and now, to learn and show the world what life in God's reign means: healing for the sick, new life for the dead, cleansing for the lepers, freedom for the possessed, new birth, new hope, new creation breaking in for all.

Worthy too, the night we betrayed you, when you took the bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to your disciples. Worthy when you told them, "This is my body broken for you. Remember me."

We remember.

Worthy when you took the cup, praised God and shared it, and worthy when you said, "This is the cup of salvation. Drink from it and remember me." **We remember.**

We remember, and we praise you with our lives and these gifts of bread and cup, proclaiming with one voice the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Come upon us, Holy Spirit and upon these gifts. Make them Christ for us. Make us one in Christ as we pray for the church and the world:

That we may proclaim the gospel boldly, **Hear us, O God.**

That we may offer your healing for all who are sick, or torn, or weary, **Hear us, O God.**

That our beloved dead may be raised, and death's power vanquished, **Hear us, O God.**

That all who are possessed, oppressed, and distressed may be set free, **Hear us, O God.**

Come and fill this feast, Holy Spirit, this day, and every day until that day when we eat together in your kingdom and our rejoicing shall know no end. All blessing, honor, glory and power be yours, Holy God, now and forever. **Amen!**

We eat together in grace and love. We drink together in mercy and salvation.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Lord, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this meal and the grace we receive from you strengthen us in love. Send us to serve you as we serve others in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Children & youth dismissed to Sunday School with Joan Hartman (Director of Family Ministries)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Children of the Heavenly Father arr. Sandell/Olson
Mixed Quartet

FIRST READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (CEB)

How can we thank God enough for you, given all the joy we have because of you before our God? Night and day, we pray more than ever to see all of you in person and to complete whatever you still need for your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus guide us on our way back to you. May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen.

SECOND READING

Luke 21:25-36 (CEB)

“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. Then they will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God’s kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away. Take care that your hearts aren’t dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don’t let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Son of Man.”

HYMN

People, Look East (#202)

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table
People, look east and sing today. Love, the guest is on the way

Furrows, be glad, though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there
Give up your strength the seed to nourish that in course the flower may flourish
People, look east and sing today. Love, the rose is on the way

Stars, keep the watch when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together
People, look east and sing today. Love, the star is on the way

SERMON

Homesick
Rev. Rachael Warner

SPECIAL MUSIC

Creation will be at Peace by Page/Williams
Mixed Quartet

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (#211)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

BENEDICTION

BLESSING

The Lord Bless You and Keep You by Rutter
Mixed Quartet

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Way, O Zion (Swedish Melody) arr. by Lani Smith

Mixed Quartet - Jan Warren, Nancy Jo Mattson, Larry Lundby, Bruce Falink

Advent Wreath - Jim & Annette Brandner

Organist - Diane Gronewold

Worship Tech - Jake Berg



Homesick
First Sunday of Advent

*** Liturgy for our Advent series written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed ***
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