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Coming Home For Christmas

ADVENT IN ISAIAH

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Midweek Advent Service
December 3, 2025 – 6:30 PM

AS WE GATHER

This year the Midweek services will focus on passages in Isaiah where the promises of God fulfilled in Jesus' arrival or his second coming, proclaim to us that while we long to find peace, belonging, and comfort this time of year, our ultimate Christmas gift is our citizenship in his kingdom. Tonight we see a God who comes to us in the flesh, to carry us home through the cross and resurrection. Christ, the shoot from Jesse's stump, restores what sin has ruined and prepares for us an eternal dwelling in His presence.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING

"How Far Love Goes"

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Blessed is the one whose hope is in the Lord his God!

C: I have put my hope in Your Word, O Lord.

P: The shoot has sprung from the stump of Jesse.

C: The branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P: The Spirit of the Lord rests upon him.

C: And his resting place shall be glorious.

P: We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

C: We light this candle in hope, the sure and certain hope of our coming Savior, Jesus.

(One candle of the Advent wreath is lit – signifying HOPE)

WE SING

"Light The Candle"

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2: 1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

KIDS' TIME

DCE Liz Peters

MEMORIAL CHOIR

"When He Comes"

MESSAGE

"Far From Home"

Pastor Doug Slavens

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

P: Let us confess our sins before God our Father.

C: We confess that we have wandered far from you, our true home. We have sought security, meaning, and belonging apart from you. We have listened to sin's whispers and followed our own desires. We are exiled by our rebellion, and we cannot bring ourselves back. Forgive us, Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

WE HEAR THAT GOD FORGIVES OUR SINS

WE SING

"Come Thou Fount"

TIME OF EVENING PRAYER

(special petitions may be offered)

P: Lord Jesus Christ, you left your throne in glory to enter our exile, so that we might be welcomed home to the Father. Keep us from seeking refuge in the false shelters of this world, and anchor our hearts in you, the shoot from Jesse's stump and the King of all kings. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

P: God the Father, who calls you home, keep you steadfast in faith. God the Son, who welcomes you home, forgive you and make you new God the Spirit, who dwells with you, guard you until the day you see your home complete

C: Amen.

WE SING

"Let The Earth Now Praise The Lord"

LSB 352: 1,4-6

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Note – Our offerings are received in the offering boxes located near our entrances

God is with us! We live our whole life as an offering of thanks to Him.

Please note our Special Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule:

Next Advent Midweek Services: Wednesday, 10th & 17th– 6:30 PM
Dinner starts at 5:00 PM

Children's Christmas Service: Sunday, Dec. 14 – 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship Services: Wednesday Dec. 24 – 3, 5 & 7pm

Christmas Day Worship Service: Thursday, Dec. 25 – 9:30 AM