First Sunday of Advent

November 8, 2015
7:30 am

God calls us to be a welcoming people! Welcome to people new to faith, to Christians of every flavor, and to long time Lutherans. Welcome to all with no church home, who need strength, want to follow, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new guests and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, ability and gift, to gay and straight, to old and young, to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. This is a place where we live past the labels, where we are welcome to celebrate and grieve, rejoice and recover. This is a place where our lives are made new. Welcome to worship God on this day!
An Advent Explanation

The Western Church Year is structured around the two great celebrations of the Christian Church—Easter and Christmas. Easter, based on the Jewish Passover, is determined by the phase of the moon. It is a “moveable” date. Christmas, on the other hand, is a fixed date determined in the 4th century to coincide with the pagan observance of the winter solstice, which at that time fell on December 25.

In the early church there was much diversity in regard to rites and calendars. Local churches were not always in sync with one another. Even today there is not uniformity in the observances of the Church Year, especially between the Western Church and the Eastern Church.

In 2006 The Advent Project (theadventproject.org) began as a continuing seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy. This ecumenical project proposes to expand the observance of Advent from 4 Sundays to 7 Sundays in order to reclaim Advent “as the time of preparation for the coming of Christ at the end of time even as we welcome his appearance in our weekly assembly and in the world to which we are sent.” This expansion of Advent to 7 Sundays is an attempt to enable the Church to focus once again on the full manifestation of the reign of God.

The Advent Project does not change any of the assigned readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. The majority of the readings in November already have an end-time focus. The final three Sundays of the 2015 Church Year (8, 15, 22 November) are simply given an Advent overlay.

This proposal has great attractiveness for us at Calvary by the Sea because our current Advent Worship observances are curtailed by the Honolulu Marathon and by PAC Sunday. Thus, in expanding Advent to 7 Sundays we are able as a community of faith to explore more fully and completely what it means to “long for the Lord’s coming.”

This is the first season that Calvary joins The Advent Project as we all strive to follow Jesus more closely both as a community of faith and as individual disciples.
Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation. In today’s readings widows are visible everywhere. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows’ houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn’t see her simply as an object of compassion or charity, she does something of great importance.

Please gather as the sounding of the conch shell calls us to worship.

“GATHERING, organ

“A Laden Ship is Coming”

During the Ringing of the Bell please center your thoughts on Makua—God the Creator, Keiki Kane—Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and ‘Uhane Hemolele—the Holy Spirit our Comforter.
GREETING, Kahu Tim

KAHU:  How long, O God, must we endure our brokenness?
ALL:   Come, Lord Jesus, and make us whole!
KAHU:  The grace of Jesus Christ,
        the love of God,
        and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
ALL:   And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SIN, Kahu Tim

The Confession and Forgiveness of Sin begins on page 116 in the front of the hymnal.

KYRIE standing

The liturgy continues with the Kyrie on page 120 in the front of the hymnal.

GLORIA standing

The Gloria begins on page 121 in the front of the hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE DAY standing

ALL: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Reach out to
     us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace.
     Strengthen our trust in your promises. Bring all the
     world to share in the treasures that come through your
     Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREETING OF GUESTS and SHARING OF ALOHA standing

KAHU:  The Lord be with you.
ALL:   And also with you.
WE HEAR THE WORD

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 1

ALL SINGING:

O come, O wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

ONE: We gather together to expect the unexpected. We dream about the future and patiently wait for the birth of Messiah. Jesus, we light this candle whose flame brings light to the darkness.

ALL: Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

FIRST READING

Ruth 3: 1‒5; 4: 13‒17

Naomi has lost her husband and sons, but is blessed by the love and support of her widowed daughter-in-law Ruth. Naomi is resourceful in arranging the marriage of Ruth to her wealthy kinsman, Boaz; and Ruth, the Moabite, becomes the great-grandmother to that greatest of Israelite kings, David.

ONE: ¹Naomi said to [Ruth,] "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. ²Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do." ⁵She said to her, "All that you tell me I will do."
So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

**PSALM** *sung responsively*

Psalm 127

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it.  
   **Unless the LORD watches over the city,  
in vain the sentinel keeps vigil.**

2 It is in vain to rise so early and go to bed so late;  
   **vain, too, to eat the bread of toil;  
for you, LORD, give sleep to your beloved.**

3 Children are a heritage from the LORD,  
   **and the fruit of the womb is a gift.**

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
   **are the children of one's youth.**

5 Happy is the one whose quiver is full of them!  
   **Such a one will not be put to shame  
when contending with enemies in the gate.**

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 1: 3–9

The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.
ONE: Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION standing

"Ka Manaʻo ʻIʻo"

Ka ma-na-ʻo-ʻi-ʻo, o ko kā-kou A-kū-a, Faith-ful, faith-ful is our God.

GOSPEL standing

Mark 12: 38–44

After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.

KAHU: As [Jesus] taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting
money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

**KAHU:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON, Pastor Kyle**

"Women of GREAT Importance!"

**SERMON HYMN 790 standing**

"Day by Day"

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH standing**

**ALL:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH standing**

**KAHU:** Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.
A brief silence.

Come to your church, eternal God. Watch over the stranger.

**ALL:** Be with missionaries serving in many lands. Give them compassion and grace as they embody your love. Come, Lord Jesus.

**KAHU:** Come to your church, creative God, that you made along with the heaven and earth. Move us to delight in your creation and care for it as you desire.

**ALL:** Bless farmers, gardeners, fisher-folk as they continue the winter harvest here in Hawaiʻi. Come, Lord Jesus.

**KAHU:** Come to your church, merciful God. Execute justice for the oppressed.

**ALL:** Guide global economic and financial leaders and all politicians. Embolden them to create financial policies that embody your justice. Come, Lord Jesus.

**KAHU:** Come to your church, healing God. Set the prisoners free, liberate all who are bound by physical and mental chains.

**ALL:** Grant healing and wholeness to suffering and demonized communities, families, and individuals. Come, Lord Jesus.

**KAHU:** Come to your church, abundant God. Uphold the orphan and the widow.

**ALL:** Provide homes and love for all who are alone, neglected, houseless and abandoned in our community. Open our hearts to care for all your people. Come, Lord Jesus.

**W.H.A.L.E., a time of thanks for answered prayer and prayer requests.**

**KAHU:** God, your steadfast love is endless. Keep us faithful to you.

**ALL:** Teach us through the witness of the saints. Come, Lord Jesus.

**KAHU:** Into your care, Alpha and Omega, we entrust all for whom we pray. Be with us now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Anyone desiring individual prayer and intercessions please contact Kahu Tim or members of the Stephen Ministry team at the conclusion of the worship service.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS, organ  “Savior of All Nations, Come”

DOXOLOGY standing  “Ho‘onani i ka Makua Mau”

Ho‘onani i ka Makua mau. Ke keiki me ka ‘Uhane nō.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

OFFERING PRAYER standing

KAHU: Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE FED

GREAT THANKSGIVING standing

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
SANCTUS standing

The Sanctus and Words of Institution are sung following, “...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.”

Christ our God to earth descend ing Comes our hom-age to de - mand.  
Take and eat this is my bo - dy.  Do this to re - mem - ber me.  
He will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav’n-ly food.  
Take and drink this cup, my love out-poured. Do this to re - mem - ber me.  
“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

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.

Let all mor-tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and trem - bling stand;  
In the night his friends be - traced him Je - sus took the bread of life. 
King of kings yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on earth he stood.  
Then he took the cup of bless - ing, thanked the Lord for this sweet wine. 
At his feet the six - winged se - raph, che - ru - bim with sleep - less eye, 
Pon - der no - thing earth - ly mind - ed, For with bless - ing in his hand  
Blessed and broke it for all peo - ple giv - en to end hu - man strife.  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bo - dy and the blood. 
Gave it to be - wil - dered foll'wers; Sac - re - ment of peace di - vine. 
Veil their fa - ces to the pres - ence As with cease-less voice they cry:
THE LORD'S PRAYER singing

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

At Calvary by the Sea all those who have a relationship with Jesus Christ and those who are seeking such a relationship are invited to experience the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You are invited to follow the direction of the Kahu and come forward to encircle the altar area. There are kneelers for those who prefer to kneel. Dip the bread in either the red wine or the white grape juice and then eat the element.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION seated

KAHU: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE SENT

SENDING HYMN 439 standing “Soon and Very Soon”

All Keiki are invited to dance.
Benediction and Sending, Kahu Tim

KAHU: May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

KAHU: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Going Forth organ

“‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

Today, November 8, 2015

Ministers: All Members of Calvary by the Sea

KAHU: Tim Mason

Guest Preacher: Rev. Kyle Lovett

Worship and the Arts: Tom Poole

Organist and Pianist: Ina Young

Reader, Ushers, Communion Assistants and Altar Care: Tribe Seven—Pat Wong, Bob Blew, Billie Pring, Jim Wong, Sally Drake

Worship Production Support: Fletcher Young, Erin Day

WORSHIP AND SERVICES AHEAD

Sunday, November 8—1st Sunday of Advent

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir, “I Sing Because I’m Happy”

Sunday, November 15—2nd Sunday of Advent

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir, “What Does the Lord Require of You?”

Sunday, November 22—3rd Sunday of Advent
Christ the King (Reign of Christ) Sunday

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir, “Do Not Be Afraid”

(Sanctuary to be adorned following the 10 am service.)
Sunday, November 29—4th Sunday of Advent

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, “Praise His Holy Name!”

Sunday, December 6—5th Sunday of Advent

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Nā Leo Kamaliʻi (Calvary Preschool Choir)

Sunday, December 13—6th Sunday of Advent

MARATHON SUNDAY, 7 PM SERVICE

A HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE WITH THE CALVARY CHOIR SINGING CHORUSES FROM The Messiah

Friday, December 18—Blue Christmas, 7 pm

A SERVICE RECOGNIZING HOLIDAYS AS NOT ALWAYS A TIME OF CELEBRATION

Presiding, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir

Sunday, December 20—7th Sunday of Advent

Performing Arts @ Calvary Sunday

Presiding, Kahu Tim
Music, PAC
Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

5:30 pm—Family Christmas Eve Pageant and Candlelight Holy Communion

Presiding, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Handbell Choir

10:30 pm—“Midnight” Service and Candlelight Holy Communion

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir and Calvary Handbell Choir

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 10 am

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Don Conover and Ernest Harada

Sunday, December 27—1st Sunday after Christmas

Featuring Calvary’s Christmas Carol Liturgy

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir

Sunday, January 3—2nd Sunday after Christmas

Featuring Calvary’s Christmas Carol Liturgy

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir