3rd Saturday of Advent

November 25, 2017
6:30 pm

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 2017 Church Year (12, 19, 26 November) are simply given an Advent overlay.

This proposal has great attractiveness for us at Calvary by the Sea Lutheran 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 third 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.
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

On this, both the final Saturday of the church year and the third Sunday of Advent in our Advent Project, the gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

SOUNDING OF THE PŪ

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

GATHERING, Tom

“What Child Is This”

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 3, Kahu Tim

GREETING, Kahu Tim

KAHU: Beautiful are the works of God!
ALL: Beautiful also are the skins of God’s people!
KAHU: Beautiful is the mind of God!
ALL: Beautiful also are the hopes of God’s people!
KAHU: Beautiful is the heart of God!
ALL:  Beautiful also are the souls of God’s people!
KAHU:  God made the heavens and the earth!
ALL:  Amen! Come Lord Jesus!
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

KAHU:  Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
       who comes to wake us from sleep,
       who leads us into the light of grace.

ALL:  Amen.
KAHU:  Let us prepare the way of the Lord
       by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful Creator,

ALL:  we have made ourselves gods.
We claim what is not ours,
    neglect what you have given,
    and think ourselves smarter and better
    than others.

Forgive us for rejecting you.

In your mercy, teach us to forgive ourselves and others,
    accept our humanity,
    and serve you in newness of life.

May we receive the gift of your presence this Advent
season through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!
ASSURANCE OF PARDON standing

KAHU:  Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new.
       Rejoice in this good news!
ALL:    Amen.

GREETING HYMN standing  “When Out of Poverty Is Born”
   (Sung to KINGSFOLD; “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”)

       When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die,
       And homeless, weary folk find strength to stand with heads held high,
       It’s then we learn from those who wait to greet the promised day,
       ‘The Lord is coming; don’t lose heart. Be blest; prepare the way!’

       When people wander far from God, forget to share their bread,
       They find their wealth an empty thing, their spirits are not fed.
       For only just and tender love the hungry souls will stay.
       And so God’s prophets echo still ‘Be blest; prepare the way!’

       When God took flesh and came to earth, the world turned upside down,
       And in the strength of woman’s faith the Word of Life was born.
       She knew that God would raise the low, it pleased her to obey.
       Rejoice with Mary in the call, ‘Be blest; prepare the way!’

Words © The Revd Kathy Galloway, Glasgow, Scotland.

PRAYER OF THE DAY standing

ALL:    O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace.
       Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
KAHU:  May God’s aloha be with you.
ALL:    And also with you.

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING  
Ezekiel 34: 11–16, 20–24

Since Israel’s kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

ONE:  

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12 As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. 20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far
and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

**PSALM** read responsively

Psalm 95: 1–7a

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD;  
**let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

2 Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
**and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

3 For you, LORD, are a great God,  
**and a great ruler above all gods.**

4 In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
**the heights of the hills are also yours.**

5 The sea is yours, for you made it,  
**and your hands have molded the dry land.**

6 Come, let us worship and bow down,  
**let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

7a For the LORD is our God,  
**and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.**

**SECOND READING**

Ephesians 1: 15–23

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

**ONE:** 15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to
give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION standing

"Ka Manaʻo 'Iʻo"

Ka manaʻo iʻo, o ko kā-kou A-ku-a, Faith-ful, faith-ful is our God.

GOSPEL standing

Matthew 25: 31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand,

ALL: 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

KAHU: 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them,

ALL: 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

KAHU: 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand,

ALL: 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

KAHU: 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them,

ALL: 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the
least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Kahu: And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."


All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon, Kahu Tim

"Enlighten Our Eyes"

Sermon Hymn 434 standing

"Jesus Shall Reign"

Affirmation of Faith standing

"The Apostles’ Creed"

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: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God’s people.
A brief silence.

_Almighty God, your merciful rule encompasses all the world._

**ALL:** As we gather for worship in the safety of _Calvary by the Sea Lutheran_, we pray for those congregations whose worship has been marked by violence, persecution, and a disregard of your sanctuary. Watch over your people as they gather and witness to your good news. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. _Come, Lord Jesus._

**KAHU:** Give health, safety, bountiful pastures and abundant waters to herds, livestock, fish, birds, and all animals.

**ALL:** May our care for all of your creation reflect your shepherding love for all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. _Come, Lord Jesus._

**KAHU:** _We pray for international organizations that shine your light in places of strife._

**ALL:** Lead relief and aid workers, leaders and volunteers, especially Lutheran World Relief, to seek the lost and provide safety. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. _Come, Lord Jesus._

**KAHU:** _Bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, abused, or ill._

**ALL:** Give wisdom to counselors, doctors, nurses, and all in professions that provide healing. Bless Lutheran Social Services. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. _Come, Lord Jesus._

**KAHU:** _Shepherd your churches to welcome the stranger and immigrant in our midst._

**ALL:** Call all your people to welcome, clothe, feed, and visit those in need just as you have provided for the lost and despairing throughout the ages, especially Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. _Come, Lord Jesus._
**W.H.A.L.E., a time of thanks for answered prayer and prayer requests.**

**KAHU:** Give us the hope to which you call us, our glorious inheritance with all your saints. Enrich our lives with the faith and vision of those saints who have died.

**ALL:** Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

**KAHU:** Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** Amen.

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

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**PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS, Tom**

“Remembrance”

**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.*

*Praise God above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**OFFERING PRAYER standing**

**KAHU:** Savior of the nations, come.
Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light.

**ALL:** Amen.

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**WE ARE FED**

12
GREAT THANKSGIVING standing

KAHU: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And also with you.
KAHU: Lift up your hearts.
ALL: We lift them to the Lord.
KAHU: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS standing

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (traditional)

ALL: 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.

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: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE SENT

SENDING HYMN 257 standing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

BENEDICTION AND SENDING, Kahu Tim

KAHU: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness,
     shine upon you and
     scatter the darkness from before your path.
     Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
     bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
KAHU:  *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

ALL:  *Thanks be to God.*

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**Today, November 25, 2017**

**MINISTERS:** All Members of Calvary by the Sea  
**KAHU:** Tim Mason  
**WORSHIP AND THE ARTS:** Tom Poole  
**READER, USHERS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND ALTAR CARE:** Congregation  
**WORSHIP PRODUCTION SUPPORT:** Fletcher Young, Erin Day, Kanoa Pick  
SERVICES AND EVENTS @ CALVARY

Saturday, December 2—Advent 4
Saturday Service Held in ‘Ohana Lani, 6:30 pm
Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, The Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 3—4th Sunday of Advent
Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir, “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Saturday, December 9—Advent 5
Saturday Service Held in ‘Ohana Lani, 6:30 pm
Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Tom

REMININDER
Sunday, December 10 is Marathon Sunday
NO Morning Worship Services
Evening Worship at 6 pm
Christmas scenes and music by PAC

Saturday, December 16—Advent 6
Saturday Service Held in ‘Ohana Lani, 6:30 pm
Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Tom