5th Saturday of Advent

December 9, 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

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

SOUNDING OF THE PŪ

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

GATHERING, Tom

“Comfort”

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 5, Kahu Tim

During the Lighting of the Advent Candle 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: The days are surely coming, says our God, when I will bring my promised salvation to the world.

ALL: Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

KAHU: The days are surely coming, says our God, when justice and mercy will be executed throughout the land.

ALL: Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

KAHU: The days are surely coming, says our God, when my promised One will teach transgressors my ways, and heal the world with love and mercy.

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.

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

In the medieval Western church—from the time of Charlemagne in the eighth century or earlier, seven “O antiphons,” (sentences beginning with ‘O’), became the basis for this hymn we sing today (O Emmanuel; O Wisdom; O Lord of might; O Branch of Jesse; O Key of David; O Dayspring; O King of nations). These seven verses were sung consecutively on the seven days before Christmas. This hymn is the quintessential Advent hymn.

PRAYER OF THE DAY standing

ALL: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
GREETING OF GUESTS AND SHARING OF ALOHA seated

KAHU:  May God’s aloha be with you.
ALL:   And also with you.

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING  

Isaiah 40: 1–11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

ONE: 

1Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

2Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

3A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

5Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM read responsively
Psalm 85: 1–2, 8–13

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for tune of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.
I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.
9 Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, 
that your glory may dwell in our land.

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; 
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, 
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, 
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before the LORD 
and shall prepare for God a pathway.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3: 8–15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

ONE: 8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. 11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. 14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these
things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION standing  “Ka Manaʻo ʻIʻo”

“This is the chorus from a song composed by Joe Camacho as the theme song for the 1999 Big Island Liturgy and Arts Conference, also known as BILAC.

GOSPEL standing  Mark 1: 1–8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus’ birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

KAHU:  1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
         2As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
         3the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"
         4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.  5And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan,
confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON, Kahu Tim  “See, the Lord GOD comes with might…."

SERMON HYMN 256 standing  “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

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

Please follow the guidance of Kahu Tim as he leads our prayers and intercessions.
PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS, Tom

“Silence”

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: 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.

WE ARE FED

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 (contemporary)

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we
forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and 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: 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 266 standing “All Earth Is Hopeful”

Alberto Taulé, a native of Catalonia, composed both the text and tune of this hymn. It was first published in 1972 in Catalan. The 1995 English translation is by Madeleine Marshall, a graduate of St. Olaf. She retired in 2010 from the faculty of California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California.

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.
Today, December 9, 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
SERVICES AND EVENTS @ CALVARY

REMINDER

Sunday, December 10 is Marathon Sunday
NO Morning Worship Services

Evening Worship at 6 pm
Featuring 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

Sunday, December 17—6th Sunday of Advent

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir, “The Peace of God/Pō La‘i E”

Friday, December 22—Blue Christmas, 7 pm
A Service for Those Having Difficulties with the Season

Saturday, December 23—An Early Christmas Eve

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Tom