

First Sunday of Advent



The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii

Ka Hale Pule 'O Na Lahui Apau . . .

Church Of All Peoples . . .

. . . Hele Pu Makou me Iesu Kristo

. . . Walking Together With Christ

November 29, 2020

The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii

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Welcome to the First Sunday of Advent!

Introduction

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come

Overview

Old Problems, New Beginnings

By now the last of the leaves have likely fallen from trees in northern climes, and any still holding on look dry and dead. Snow has arrived, and its thick blanket shows the stains of city filth and grime, reminding us of the waste we are pouring over the land and into the water. This is the season we begin a new year in the life of the church and, as with our worship, we begin with a confession of our participation in the world's suffering.

Heavy hearts and burdened consciences will relate to Isaiah's confession, "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Isa. 64:6). Then, just as the cold nights in the northern hemisphere reach their longest, Mark addresses us with promises that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man will include the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars. Hold on, there is hope!

The promise of Advent is that God is always at work in the world, bringing new beginnings and a new creation to people and powers long bent on destruction. Yet, because we live in the generation that exists between the "already" of Christ's resurrection and the "not yet" of God's full restoration of the creation, we cannot know when that final day will arrive. Instead of becoming preoccupied with the end times, we are counseled to live our lives in a state of preparedness—trusting that our home is God's home and that God is coming once again to dwell with us. That trust is the strength that sustains us as we "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7).

Announcements

1. Spiritual Direction – Opportunity to grow in faith and discovery God! Contact Liedeke Bulder
2. **Deck the Halls – Saturday, December 5 @ 9am**
3. Free Advent Book – PDF downloadable on our website under the resources tab
4. Mobile Muchies needs volunteers – Thursday morning.

Weekly Events

1. Hybrid – Virtual + Local Youth Group
 - a. **Sunday, November 29**, NO YG, ON BREAK FOR THANKSGIVING
2. College and Young Adults Ministry
 - a. **Tuesday, December 1**, 5:30-7:00pm @ Fellowship hall
3. Women's Book Study – Molokai'i
 - a. **Wednesday, December 2**, @ 7:30-8:30pm via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/96513446272>
4. Table Talk
 - a. **Thursday, December 3**, @ 5:30-6:45pm @ Fellowship hall + Pupus and BYOB!
5. Centering Prayer with Liedeke Bulder
 - a. **Saturday, December 5**, @ 9-10am via zoom <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9079773456>
6. Deck the Halls
 - a. **Saturday, December 5**, @ 9am
 - b. Come for NOG, fellowship, and help decorate the church!

Prayer Concerns

Please remember these people in your prayers during the week: Zosimo and Virginia Austria, Karen Kinoshita, Jake Whisenhunt, Rick Rentz, Stan Weeks, Judy Hoffman, Norman Dibble, Marie Johnson, Minora Higa, Kazue Zaima, Virginia Hines-Aflague, John Mattek, Gerald II (Bobby Gerald's son), Kristie Schmid (Tony's sister), Lolli Hagen, Abraham Torres, Sr., Kristy Kahananui, Sonny Koerte, Joan Duarte Ebesu, Mallory Rodriguez, Steve Schantz, Peter Alisna, Tirzah Pope, John McIntyre, Pastor Matthew Weber, Joyce Anglemyer, Stephen Shioi, Peggy Hood, Jason Shimono, Richard Rasay, Nancy Nelson (formely Mandell), Karen & Patrick Pavao, Edward Rasay, Richard Duarte (Friend of Kurt Javinar), Karen Richards (friend of Nancy Mandell), Marcos Larson (Liedeke's son), Dora Jane Rowell, Franklin Parraga, Penny Parraga, Leticia Ancog (Kurt Javinar's sister), Yvonne Shinseki, Al Dressler (Larry's Father), Shirley Hallman (Denese Alcott's Mother), Mercy Ballesteros, Mike LaBerge, Anna Marie & Phil Croghan, Judy Carlson, Caroline Johnson, Sheila Belarmino, Ray Roderick, The Church Council, and leaders in the ELCA. If you have additional prayer requests, please let the church office know. *"Ask it in my name . . ."* Mahalo for your love.

Remembering our Military

As we gather for worship, please remember those serving us in the military, and the families of our Hawai'i National Guard. These names have been given by loved ones and family members: Navy – TJ, Javinar, Kristian Matsumoto, Coast Guard - Brian Rodriguez, Navy - Kiana Alisna, Coast Guard - Ke'ale Renta Army - Jason Lumacad, Levi Fajardo: Air Force - Steven Javinar, Ikaika Fajardo, Army - Brandon Perkinson, Drew Cox, Tony Garton: National Guard - Benji MacKenzie, Eddie Resinto, Fred Casticimo, Philip Kamakea, Anthony Y. Torres, Master Sgt. If you know of someone you would like added to our prayer list, please advise the church office.

Be Alert; Stay Awake

What does it mean to "be alert" and "stay awake" in this Advent? We can think of this in one of two ways: we can focus on things *to do* or we can focus on things *to not do*. The calling of Christ and the life of faith certainly has some *no-no's* but more than that, a life of faith is about what *to do* and who to *pursue*. If you want to learn more about what *to do* and who to *pursue*, read more at the end of the bulletin.

Welcome, Check-In, and Announcements

Type into the Facebook chatbox and respond to one, or more, of the following four check-in prompts

Moment of Mindfulness

Take a few moments to center your spirit and prepare for worship.

*Order for Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand)*

P We are gathered in the name of the Father, Makua, and of the + Son, Keiki Kane, and of the Holy Spirit, Uhane Hemolele.

C Amen

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Holy One,

C we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus Christ you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

*Gathering Song

ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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**Apostolic Greeting*

- P The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.
C And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

- P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the
threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen

First Reading (please be seated)

Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

A The Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Advent 1

A We light one candle,
C And we pray for peace.

A We light one candle,
C and we pray the swords will be turned to plowshares.

A We look forward to the arrival of God's Son, our Prince of Peace.
C Come to us, O Prince of Peace.

A We await the time when wars will cease and dividing walls will break down.
C Come to us, O Prince of Peace.

A We seek the one who will calm our hearts and minds with His love.
C Light our path to peace, Lord, with your glorious presence. Amen.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A The Word of the Lord C **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation (please stand)

Refrain



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord;
al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

*The Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P The Holy Gospel according to
 Saint Mark, the thirteenth chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Children's Sermon (please be seated)

Sermon

**Song of the Day* (please stand)

ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

**Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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*

P God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

C your mercy is great.

A We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

C your mercy is great.

A We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those

who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

C your mercy is great.

A We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

C your mercy is great.

A We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

C your mercy is great.

A We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

C your mercy is great.

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Queen's Prayer

The musical score is written for Piano and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are in Hawaiian and English. The Hawaiian lyrics are: O kou a-lo-ha no A i-a i ka La-ni, A No-lai-la e ka-Haku Ma-la-lo kou e-he-u, Ko o kou oi-a i-o, He he-mo-le-le hoi ma-kou ma-lu-hi-a, A mau loa a-ku no. A-me-ne.

English Translation

1. O Lord thy Loving Mercy,
Is high as the Heavens.
It tells us of thy truth.
And 'tis filled with holiness

3. For thy grace I beseech thee.
Bring us 'neath thy protection.
And peace will be thy portion
Now and forever more. Amen

Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share peace in the Facebook live chatbox with one another.

***Offering Prayer** (please stand)

P Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C Amen.

Offertory (please be seated)

Pastoral ministry might seem like something that *one person* does: the pastor. In our tradition, we are all pastors. This is the doctrine of the priesthood of *all* believers. While you may not be an ordained pastor, you are still a leader in ministry, called and baptized and sent to do great things. Your first vocational ministry is where God has called you to work. And sometimes, work becomes so fulfilling (or just time filling) that we aren't always able to get involved in the church in the ways we would like. Here is where you can partner with us in the ministries we support, so that, even though you're not carrying out the ministry, you support our work in your way.

Dear friends, in the times of COVID we invite those who are financially stable and able to move into a greater partnership with us in this season do so through the giving of gifts, tithes, and offerings. This work *is not possible without your support!* We invite you to pray in this season and discern how God might be inviting you to grow in your giving and support to Lihue Lutheran.

If, in this discernment, God puts it on your heart to give, donations can be made online, mailed in, or given on our website [here](#) or you can copy and paste the weblink below @

https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUIiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTpo0mld6BrVzd2nG0p8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3

Offertory Song (please stand)

Lord of Aloha

God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,
5 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.
9 Auth - or of mer - cy, Giv - er of grace, Bles - sed Re - deem - er who died in our place, Fath - er of one O
14 ha - na are you, Lift - ing our voic - es we sing "Al - le - lu" Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

19

 God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma-ker of beau-ty and source of the breeze,

23

 King of Cre - a - tion, an cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

27

 Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

Sacramental Remembrance of Communion (please be seated)

**Lord's Prayer (spoken in unison; please stand)*

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.

**Blessing*

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

C Amen

**Sending Song*

ELW 439

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

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Dismissal

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle

Monday, November 30, 2020

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Thursday, December 3, 2020

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Friday, December 4, 2020

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

HOW SHOULD WE WAIT?

How should we wait for the Christ-child in this Advent season?

When I think of the call of the season, “to wait,” I’m invited to consider, “What does it mean to be wait? What does that look like?”

I think there are two ways we can wait. We can sit and do nothing (passive waiting) or we do something while we wait (active waiting). In terms of passive waiting, I think of someone working the night shift who brings their laptop to work, turns on Netflix or Hulu and merely “waits” for their shift to be over. This could also be like someone who is waiting for a friend to come over and quickly turns on the tv and hops on the couch. In both scenarios there isn’t anything necessarily wrong with either forms of waiting; although a night shift manager might hope that their employee fulfills their basic overnight responsibilities – which may include merely being a warm body in an office building.

However, the call to wait *and be alert*, I think, encourages us to participate in a more active form of waiting. In terms of waiting for the Christ-child, this is also used with the term, “prepare Him room.” To wait for someone who is to come, I argue, *must* take an active form of waiting. For example, if you are waiting for a guest to come over for dinner, do you hop on the couch and merely *wait* for them to arrive? Many, or most, will likely clean the day before or the just before the guests arrive and they will also, likely, prepare a meal. While they, technically, are waiting for their guests, they are engaged in an active form of waiting. To be ready to receive their guest, they must be prepared for their guest.

Therefore, as we wait to receive this Christ-child, what, in our hearts or lives, needs to be prepared to make room for Jesus? It could be that the best thing for you to do is literally sit-and-do-nothing, but for others, there may be some preparing that needs to take place. Do a quick inventory with your heart and life and see what needs to happen in this “waiting.”