



# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

for November 29, 2020

*First Sunday of Advent*

*The altar flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of  
Peter and Anna Amerena  
Given by Marie Cooper*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of  
Kim Hersey  
Given by Dana Hersey*

***“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” — The Messenger***

## ADVENT 1

***“I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow”***

**Prelude**

Ji Hye Jung

**Welcome**

Rev. Pam Cochrane

**Crossing the Threshold**

This Advent, we are looking to hear words of comfort, of challenge and of good news. The prophet Isaiah and the four Gospel authors were writing in a time when people needed desperately to hear all of these as well. This first week, Isaiah, the prophet, and Mark—the Gospel writer, reassure the people that good news is beginning and yet they both say, “Make yourself ready! Raise your voices, change your hearts, get ready to be transformed, because now is the time.” Let us embrace hope that we can do what needs to be done to bring more light into the world.

*I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,  
even when, even when it's not shining.  
The place without light  
The depth of night  
The pit of unknowing*

**Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of untiring hope.  
Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—  
even when our view is obscured by clouds of doubt,  
ignite the flame of hope within us,

**People: that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.**

Pastor: Help us face this bleak night of the soul and embrace it as a womb of rebirth. Amen.

***\*You are invited to light your Advent candle of Hope at this time.\****

**Hymns**

*When God Is A Child*

words by Brian Wren; music by Joan C. Fogg

Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

**CHORUS:** When God is a child  
there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first  
and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

Prepare our hearts this season, to light each darkness way;  
Behold we now God's promise, a dawning for our day.  
Your son of hope for shining, declare our Advent praise.  
Impart your hope as now we wait, a weary world to raise.

All highest peace and glory, we need you, Lord of life,  
To guide us in thy wisdom, to save us in our strife.  
Your promise ever bold and new, in you we dare believe;  
Your kingdom come, O Prince of Peace, prepare us to receive.

The promised gift we worship, to us a love was sent;  
Continue now your promise, Emmanuel's Advent.  
Again within this season, prepare our hearts for birth;  
May love be now our offering, our best gift here on earth.

In joy abounds our Advent faith, built on an empty tomb;  
The Christ-Child enters all hearts prepared to make him room.  
Prepare our hearts this season, to light each darkness way;  
Your promise may we now behold, to dawn upon our day.

**Children's Time to Shine**

*This Little Light of Mine*

**Isaiah Reading**— Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, comfort my people!  
says your God.  
Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,  
that her penalty has been paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins!  
A voice is crying out:  
"Clear the Lord's way in the desert!  
Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!  
Every valley will be raised up,  
and every mountain and hill will be flattened.  
Uneven ground will become level,  
and rough terrain a valley plain.  
The Lord's glory will appear,  
and all humanity will see it together;  
the Lord's mouth has commanded it."  
A voice was saying:  
"Call out!"  
And another said,  
"What should I call out?"  
All flesh is grass;  
all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field.  
The grass dries up  
and the flower withers  
when the Lord's breath blows on it.  
Surely the people are grass.  
The grass dries up;

the flower withers,  
but our God's word will exist forever.  
Go up on a high mountain,  
messenger Zion!  
Raise your voice and shout,  
messenger Jerusalem!  
Raise it; don't be afraid;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"  
Here is the Lord God,  
coming with strength,  
with a triumphant arm,  
bringing his reward with him  
and his payment before him.  
Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;  
he will gather lambs in his arms  
and lift them onto his lap.  
He will gently guide the nursing ewes.

### Special Music

*Ave Maria*                      Bach/Gounod, arr. Patrick Liebergen  
Kathy Gross, flute & Ji Hye Jung, piano

### Gospel Reading—Mark 1: 1-15

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah: Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight." John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him. After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

### Message

"Hope Resides Here"

Rev. Pam Cochrane

### We Respond—*Litany of Belief*

In times when humanity disappoints,  
perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors disappoint,  
it is an important act to call out, name and claim, the consequences of our wrongs.  
And in times of distress, it is a prophetic act to call out,  
name and claim, our belief in the hope for tomorrow.

Hear these statements of belief from members of our own congregation:

Voice 1: I believe that we have looked the other way too many times AND

Voice 2: I believe that we are capable of facing reality and working for change.

Voice 1: I believe that our fear of difference has robbed us of compassion AND

Voice 2: I believe that we can look deeper and hold onto the things that we have in common.

Voice 1: I believe that our fear of doubt makes us stop asking tough questions AND

Voice 2: I believe that asking tough questions in the face of injustice is faithful.

Voice 1: We believe, even when we are discouraged.

**All: We believe, that when we are discouraged,  
raising our voices for justice will offer us hope!**

### **Prayers in the Stillness**

Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air I breathe  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Free me to receive

### **Prayer of the People**

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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 today our daily bread. 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, for ever and ever, Amen.**

### **Offering**

#### **Doxology**

**Believe, with a hopeful heart!  
Believe, and shine your light!  
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!  
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"  
let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us."  
Believe!**

### **Benediction**

We wait for justice  
but we do not wait to work for change;  
We wait for restored health  
but we do not wait to work to heal;  
We wait for wholeness  
but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;  
We wait for peace  
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.  
And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news  
that the sun still shines even on cloudy days,  
fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope.  
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that hope alive in you  
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.  
Raise your voices and repeat after me...  
"do not be afraid!"  
**"do not be afraid!"**  
**Amen!**

### **Postlude**

Ji Hye Jung

# Announcements & Events

## Calendar of Events



**Sunday, Nov 29 at 10am:** *First Sunday of Advent Worship; followed by Zoom Fellowship at 11pm*

**Sunday, Nov 29 at 12pm-2pm:** *Church parking lot Advent Bag pick up*

**Monday, Nov 30 at 12pm:** *Care Dimensions Webinar*

**Tuesday, Dec 1 at 7pm:** *Church Council Meeting on Zoom*

**Wednesday, Dec 2 at 7pm:** *DTP Meeting on Zoom*

**Sunday, Dec 6 at 10am:** *Second Sunday of Advent Morning Worship*

**Tuesday, Dec 8 at 7pm:** *Deacons Meeting on Zoom*

**Wednesday, Dec 9 at 6:30pm:** *CE Meeting on Zoom*

**Sunday, Dec 13 at 10am:** *Third Sunday of Advent & Family Worship*

**Sunday, Dec 20 at 10am:** *Fourth Sunday of Advent Morning Worship*

**Thursday, Dec 24 at 5pm:** *Christmas Eve Family Worship*

**Thursday, Dec 24 at 11pm:** *Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*

**Sunday, Dec 27 at 10am:** *First Sunday after Christmas Worship*

**Email the Church Office or Pastor Pam for the Zoom meeting links:**

[info@maplestreetchurch.org](mailto:info@maplestreetchurch.org)

[revpammisc@gmail.com](mailto:revpammisc@gmail.com)

### Advent Wreath Making at Home

This year we are inviting you to create a worship space at home with an Advent wreath, candles, and litany to follow along with our Sunday Morning Advent Worship. And, we've put together a special Advent Bag to help you get started. Come on by the back parking lot **Sunday, November 29th between 12-2pm** to pick up an Advent Bag. We'll have an array of supplies and DIY ideas to share and special items just for kids, too! If you can't make it by Sunday, come by on Tuesday or Wednesday morning, or call and we can arrange to have a bag dropped off for you.



### Christmas Donations to Memorial Gifts

This year, in lieu of pointsettias, we are accepting donations to the Memorial Gifts Fund in memory or in celebration of loved ones. Please make checks out to "Maple Street Church" and include in the check's memo or in an enclosed letter:

**"Gift to the Memorial Fund"**

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions, please call or email the Church Office: 978-774-4510; [info@maplestreetchurch.org](mailto:info@maplestreetchurch.org)



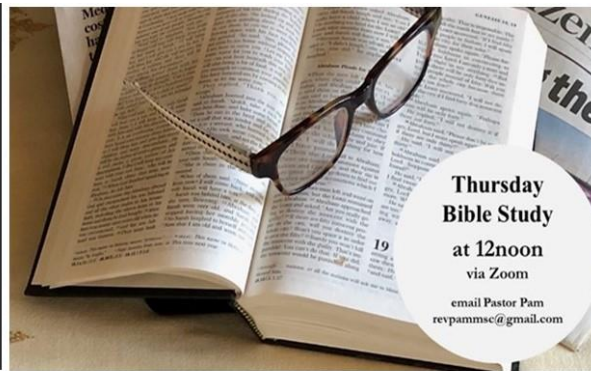
## World Service Christmas Tree Fund

Our Christmas Tree Fund provides a festive way for us to collect money for a needy organization in our community during Advent. This year it will be held outside with a live tree. Stop by the church parking lot on **Sunday, November 29th between 12-2pm to pick up the Advent Bag**, inside you will find a wooden star to decorate. Then on **Dec 6th, 13th and 20th**, immediately after the service, drive to the church parking lot where members of the World Service Committee will help you hang your star on the tree and collect your donation. Plan to bring some cocoa (or coffee) and cookies to enjoy while we sing carols from our cars. The money raised this year will go to Beverly Bootstraps, who will use it to help individuals needing assistance paying their rent this year.



**Virtual  
Prayer & Table  
Tuesdays at 6pm**

via Zoom if interested email Pastor Pam:  
[revpammsc@gmail.com](mailto:revpammsc@gmail.com)



**Thursday  
Bible Study  
at 12noon  
via Zoom**

email Pastor Pam  
[revpammsc@gmail.com](mailto:revpammsc@gmail.com)



**Drop In & Conversation  
with the Pastors**

**Wednesdays at 12noon via Zoom**

Email the Church Office or Pastor Pam for the  
Zoom meeting links:  
[info@maplestreetchurch.org](mailto:info@maplestreetchurch.org)  
[revpammsc@gmail.com](mailto:revpammsc@gmail.com)