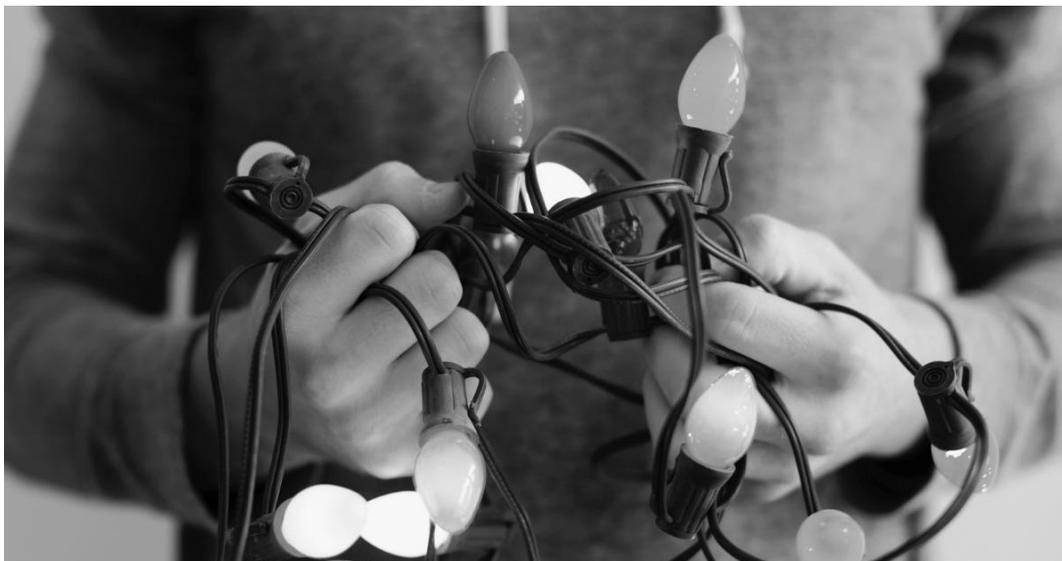


THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2020

Worship Focus

Company's Coming: This Place is a Mess!



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Order of Service for FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Morning Praise

Christian Worship Page 45

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✘ Gathering ✘

OPENING ANTHEM

Good Shepherd

By Chris Driesbach and Jayne Nitz 2016

*I've lived most all my life Got something to say.
I can't believe I'm 63, can't believe the mess I made.
What I stole, now, the lies I told, now So many mistakes.
But he saved me, Jesus saved me. He says, "Don't be afraid.*

**I am the good shepherd. You're never out of my sight.
I am the good, good shepherd. I'll guard you with my life."**

*I know him, I know his voice, I know what he paid.
He's not some old hired hand, here for a day.
When the wolves run, when the rains come, I know he will stay.
He never leaves me, will never leave me. He listens when I pray*

**To the good shepherd. I'm never out of his sight.
He is the good, good shepherd, Guards me with his life.**

*I know the day is coming soon. He's gonna gather us in.
The Holy City will be coming down As heaven begins.
He redeemed me, yeah he freed me Gave his all for my sin.
And he reigns now, Jesus reigns now. I'll walk the shining streets with him.*

**Walking with the good shepherd. I'm never out of his sight.
He is the good, good shepherd, Guards me with his life**

**He says, "I am the good shepherd. You're never out of my sight.
I am the good, good shepherd. I'll guard you with my life."**

INVOCATION AND PRAYER



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

✘ The Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 63:16b, 17; 64:1-9

*The prophet pleads for the Lord to come to his people and deal with their sins...
the only way we can truly be ready for Christ's coming.*

ISAIAH 63:16b You, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. ¹⁷ Why, O LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance.

^{64:1} Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷ No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

ANTHEM

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

*Have thine own way, Lord
Have thine own way
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after your will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

*Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way
Search me and try me, Master, today
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
As in thy presence humbly I bow.*

*Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray
Power, all power, surely is Thine
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.*

*Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way
Hold o'er my being absolute sway
Fill with your Spirit 'till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me*

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*God has taken care of our every spiritual need while we wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed...
we can be ready, always.*

¹CORINTHIANS 1:3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

ANTHEM

Wait

Chris Driesbach, Jayne Nitz 2010

*Have you spent some time in God's waiting room?
Have you cried with David, "How long?"
Have you been like Jacob, wrestling in prayer?
Have you emptied your heart in a psalm?*

Chorus:

**Wait for the Lord When he hides his face,
When you have to go on, and live by faith.
He'll give you the strength; he'll show you a way.
To wait.**

*Up in Shiloh, Hannah wept bitter tears.
She had waited so long for a child.
Isaiah waited on a vision of Christ
And Job just waited to die.*

Chorus

*Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of things we cannot see.
These are momentary troubles, when you're looking at eternity...*

*Joseph the dreamer was sold as a slave
Awaiting his place in the sun.
And the faithful watched while centuries rolled
For the promised Messiah to come.*

Chorus

GOSPEL

Mark 13:32-37

Jesus encourages us to be on our guard, to be alert, and to keep watch at all times for the coming of Christ.

MARK 13:32, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

HYMN OF THE DAY

112 – There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood



1 There is a foun - tain filled with blood— Im -
 2 The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see That
 3 Dear dy - ing Lamb, your pre - cious blood Shall
 4 E'er since by faith I saw the stream Your
 5 When this poor lisp - ing, stam - m'ring tongue Lies



man - u - el was slain— And sin - ners
 foun - tain in his day; And there have
 nev - er lose its pow'r Till all the
 flow - ing wounds sup - ply, Re - deem - ing
 si - lent in the grave, Then in a



who are washed there - in Lose ev - 'ry
 I, as vile as he, Washed all my
 ran - somed Church of God Be saved and
 love has been my theme And shall be
 no - bler, sweet - er song I'll sing your



guilt - y stain, Lose ev - 'ry guilt - y stain.
 sins a - way, Washed all my sins a - way.
 sin no more, Be saved and sin no more.
 till I die, And shall be till I die.
 pow'r to save, I'll sing your pow'r to save.

Text: William Cowper, 1731–1800. abr., alt.
 Tune: COWPER (CM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

✠ Sermon ✠

Isaiah 64:5b-8

This Place is a Mess!

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Gracious Lord, enrich us in every way as we enter another Church Year. Encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about Christ may be confirmed among us. Give boldness and faithfulness to our Synod president, our district president, our circuit pastor, and all pastors in Christ. As You have called us into the fellowship of Your Son, so sustain us as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in Your fear, and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, be with the governing authorities and enable them to preserve peace and order in our nation. Hear our prayers for our president, our governor, our military and police, and other civil servants as well as all newly elected officials. Increase a spirit of unity among the people of our land and the nations of the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Lord, behold in mercy all who are in any danger, trouble, sickness or need. Hear our prayers for the sick and suffering [especially _____]. Give health to our world and bring the pandemic to an end. Comfort all who mourn, [especially _____,] and sustain them with a confident hope in the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Father, You have given all judgment to Your Son, whose words will not pass away. Sustain us in repentance and saving faith, united in a true confession and always awake, watching for Your return. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

Prodigal Son
by Chris Driesbach 2015

*I'm a prodigal son in a distant land,
Wasting my father's gifts as fast as I can.
The world's so conditional, well, it made me a slave.
Now my heart is empty of the love that I've craved.*

**Father, forgive me. I know what I've done.
Please, open your arms to this prodigal son.**

*I've been chasing the wind, trying to win the prize
Of the money and the power, that look in a woman's eyes,
Lavish consumption of everything till I bust,
With no distinction between love and lust.*

**Father, forgive me. I know what I've done.
Please, open your arms to this prodigal son.**

*I'm a boat on the ocean tryin' not to drown.
Any little thing can bring me up or knock me down.
I've squandered it all, I'm empty and I'm left for dead
A broken man of the world. I want to be your man instead.*

**Father, forgive me. I know what I've done.
Please, open your arms to this prodigal son.**

PRAYER AND BLESSING

M O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.



CLOSING ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Public Domain

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel**

**O come, you Rod of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell your people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to you, o Israel**

**O come, you Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to you, o Israel**

*After worship, please feel free to greet your neighbors OUTSIDE,
keeping in mind the social distancing recommendations of six feet spacing.*

Hello! I'm Chris Driesbach!



Photo, Emily R. Ebeling, Ebeling Art Studio

I'm a member of Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Madison, Alabama and during the last thirteen years I've been on many musical tours, playing for worship and concerts at nearly 800 WELS and ELS churches in 41 states from Fairbanks, Alaska to Cape Coral, Florida. My songs are all original Christian music and I love to tell the story of the Spirit's powerful work in my stubborn and unbelieving heart.

I played music professionally for 30 years on the west coast. I was an atheist until age 33, and after that sort of a new-age spiritualist. 9 years later I became a Lutheran and a Christian at the same time in 1995. Faith Lutheran Church and Pastor James Oldfield in Anchorage, Alaska were my first church and pastor. We went through a 22-week Bible study course together. Pastor Oldfield read to me out of the Bible when I asked him all of the hardest questions I could think of and after 6 weeks of his class I was given the gift of faith by the Spirit working through God's Word. My life completely changed, of course!

I've been writing Christian songs for the last 14 years, including a song about my personal experience with hurricane Katrina. I have Christian CDs available: "Lifted" in 2006 and 2007, "Feed Your Faith" in 2008, "On the Road for Jesus," a compilation of two earlier recordings, "One Cross, Three Nails" done in July 2012, "Jesus Wins!" December 2016 and my new one "Hymns With Friends" finished September 2018.

I have a deep desire to go sing my songs and tell the happy story about Jesus and meet and worship with my brothers and sisters around the USA. This thing God is letting me do is a dream come true for me!

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HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2020

“Jesus Is the Greatest Gift”

November 28,29	Advent 1	Regular schedule
December 2	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 5,6	Advent 2	Regular schedule
December 9	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 12,13	Advent 3	Regular schedule
December 16	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 19,20	Advent 4	Regular schedule
December 24	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	7:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Compline	11:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Festival with the Lord’s Supper	9:30 a.m.
December 26,27	1 st Sunday after Christmas	Regular Schedule
December 31	New Year’s Eve with the Lord’s Supper	7:00 p.m.

