

# VIRTUAL CHAPEL SERVICE

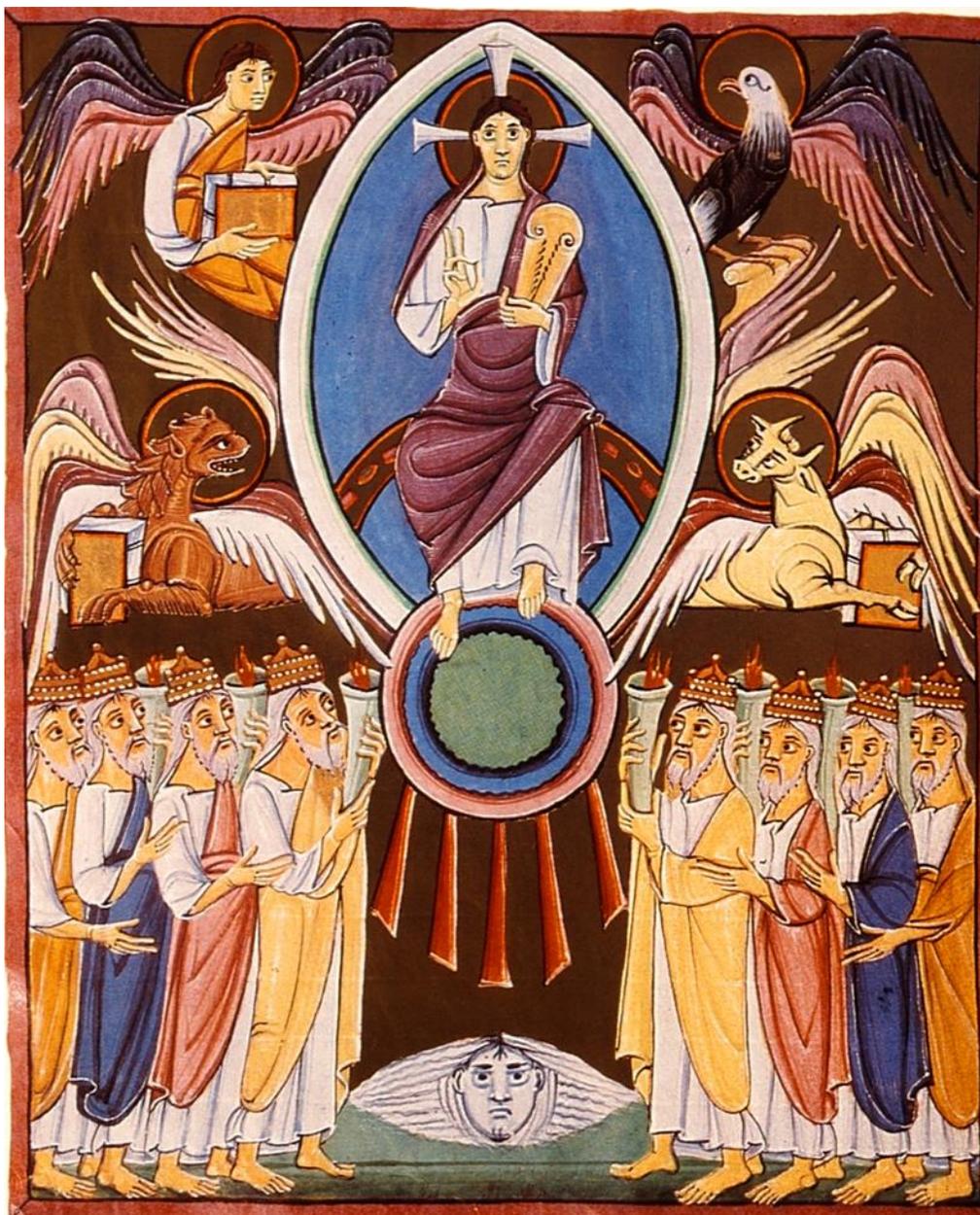
December 9 and 12, 2020



“And the four living creatures said, “Amen!”

And the elders fell down and worshiped.”

~ Revelation 5:14 (NRSV)



ADVENT

# Gathering as the Body of Christ.

**CENTERING SONG**

**“HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD”**

**CHRIS TOMLIN**

**The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty  
Let all the Earth rejoice  
All the Earth rejoice  
He wraps himself in light  
And darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice  
Trembles at His voice**

**How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God**

**Age to age He stands  
And time is in His hands  
Beginning and the end  
Beginning and the end**

**The Godhead Three in One  
Father Spirit Son  
The Lion and the Lamb  
The Lion and the Lamb**

**How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God**

**You're the name above all names  
You are worthy of our praise  
And my heart will sing  
How great is our God**

**GREETING**

**PRESIDER**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One A blessing is coming.

Many **To the one who will sit on the throne, we seek your blessing.**

Honor is coming.

**To the one who will sit on the throne, we seek your honor.**

Wisdom is coming.

**We await the wisdom of the one who will sit on the throne.**

Fill this space with your Spirit, blessed one who sits on the throne.

We have come to worship.

## OPENING HYMN

## “ALLELUIA, SING TO JESUS”

NCH 257

1 Al - le - lu - ia, sing to Je - sus! his the scep - ter, his the throne:  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now;  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! hea - venly High Priest, her on earth our help, our stay;

Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lieves nor ques - tions how.  
Al - le - lu - ia! hear the sin - ful cry to you from day - to day.

Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a migh - ty flood.  
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er,  
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - dee - mer, hear our plea,

Je - sus, out of e - very na - tion, has re - deemed us by his blood.  
shall our hearts for - get his pro - mise, "I am with you ev - er - more?  
where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Now let us come before God with words of confession:

**Lord of mercy, God of grace,  
we give thanks to you with one voice for the joy and hope this season  
brings.**

**At times we find ourselves distracted  
by all the preparations and stresses that surround us.  
Help us to focus on you, our Rock and Redeemer.**

**Restore our hearts to your message of love and your call to peace. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear these words of assurance:

We worship a God who is not distant nor apathetic,  
but a God who is with us—a God who loves us.

Let us keep our eyes open and look for God’s daily presence  
and conform our ways to God’s teachings of compassion and grace.

Let the Holy Spirit shine like a light in our hearts  
fueled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ  
who came into the world that we would be forgiven. Amen.

**Thanks be to God**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

In the waiting hour, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

# Service of the Word

## POEM

## “THE PROPS ASSIST THE HOUSE”

EMILY DICKINSON

Until the House is built  
And then the Props withdraw  
And adequate, erect,  
The House support itself  
And cease to recollect

The Auger and the Carpenter—  
Just such a retrospect  
Hath the perfected Life—  
A past of Plank and Nail  
And slowness—then the Scaffolds drop  
Affirming it a Soul.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **REVELATION 5:1-14**

### **NRSV**

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

“You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;  
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,  
and they will reign on earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea,  
and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might  
forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**DR. ANNE THAYER**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE “YOU SERVANTS OF GOD, YOUR SOVEREIGN PROCLAIM” NCH 305**

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

One: Gracious God,  
We pray that all your children are housed, clothed, and fed during this  
cold season.  
We pray for the health, comfort, and peace of all of your children.  
We pray for healing for a grieving world.

**Many: Hear our prayers.**

We pray for perseverance and strength to complete the work we came to  
do. The papers, the field education hours, the CPE narratives, that last  
Moodle post, oh God.

**Hear our prayers.**

We pray for the faculty and staff of the seminary, that they too have the  
endurance to meet deadlines and overcome obstacles in preparation for a  
much needed break.

Hear our prayers.  
Amen.

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“SHINE ON US”

MICHAEL W. SMITH

# Shine On Us

Words and Music by  
Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith

$\text{♩} = 72$

D G/D D F#m/A G2 A/C# D



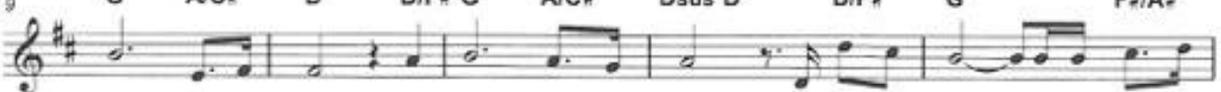
1. Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us.  
2. Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.  
3. Lord, let Your love, love with no end come o - ver us.

5 G/D D F#m/A G2 A/C# D D/F#



Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us That  
Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us That  
Lord, let Your love, love with no end come o - ver us That

9 G A/C# D D/F# G A/C# Dsus D D/F# G F#m/A



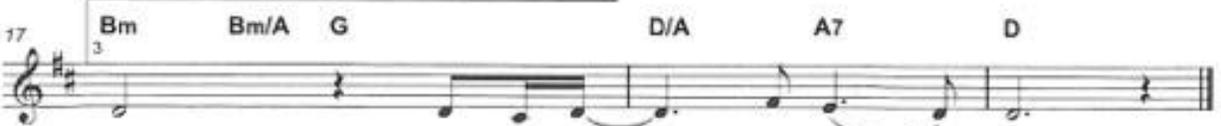
we may be saved, that we may have life; To find our way in the dark - est

14 Bm G D/A A7 D 1, 2



night, Let Your light shine on us.  
night, Let Your grace fall on us.  
night, Let Your love come o - ver

17 Bm Bm/A G D/A A7 D



us, let Your light shine on us.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

One            The Lord be with you.

Many         **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, We give thanks for your creation, fragile, yet fruitful, enough for all. We give thanks that you call us into community where love and justice may flourish, enough for all.

We give thanks that you invite us on this Advent journey. Awake, curious, longing to meet you, we set out for your table of grace. You light our path one step at a time, beckoning us onto a Way that offers us new eyes to explore the vision of the Promised One; new senses to feel the heartbeat of the Vulnerable One; new courage to share the urgency of the Ruler of Peace. One more step, one more stretch, one more challenge takes us deeper into the mystery of your abundant life: a world healed, renewed; all nature, all people at peace.

We give you thanks for sending us Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us, whose life, death and resurrection have become for us the Way to find you, to know you, to join with you in creating your new heaven and new earth.

**Holy, holy God, almighty  
Earth and heaven behold Your light  
Blessed are You whose name is Lord  
Hosanna to the highest heights**

We remember the night when Jesus gathered at table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear, took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying "Take and eat: for this is my body."

And after supper, as Jesus looked forward to your desired day of joy and power; he took the cup of wine, again gave You thanks and praise and said “Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you. I will drink this with you again in the reign of God. Share this bread and this cup in memory of me.”

Come now, Holy Spirit of God—

As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and cup become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing.

As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform this community, sharing this bread and cup, into one body in Christ.

## Going Forth as the Body of Christ

**CLOSING SONG**

**“COME, O LONG EXPECTED JESUS”**

**NCH 122**

**POSTLUDE**

**“COME, O LONG EXPECTED JESUS” INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE**

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**Cover Art:** Throne of God with Elders and Four Evangelist symbols, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55268> [retrieved June 17, 2020]. Original source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BambergApocalypseFolio010vWorshipBeforeThroneOfGod.JPG>.

**Greeting:** Pacific NorthWest Conference UMC, Bishop Hagiya Grant, November 26, 2012, “Advent Greetings From Bishop Hagiya,” accessed June 23, 2020, <https://www.pnwumc.org/news/advent-greetings-from-bishop-hagiya/>.

**Opening Song:** “How Great is Our God,” Chris Tomlin, CCLI license 2676632A

**Poem:** Emily Dickinson, “The Props Assist the House,” ca. 1863, <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/68606/spiritual-poetry>

**Prayer of Illumination:** UMC Hymnal, “For Illumination,” #477, 1989.

**Hymn of Response:** Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press. Used with Permission.

**Prayers:** Hodges, Laura. “Keeping Faith,” 2019. [https://www.ucc.org/advent\\_1\\_december\\_1](https://www.ucc.org/advent_1_december_1).

**Offertory Song:** “Shine on Us,” Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith, CCLI license 2676632

**Communion:** Blain, Susan. “Advent Communion Service.” United Church of Christ, 2019. [https://www.ucc.org/advent\\_communion\\_service](https://www.ucc.org/advent_communion_service).

**Closing Song:** Charles Wesley & John Behnke, “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus,” Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck, reprinted under OneLicense A-707825B

*\*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

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LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM  
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### THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.