

South Canyon Lutheran Church

700 44th Street Rapid City, SD 57702

Phone: 605.343.4887 www.sclc-rc.org

"Home of Friend-Ship Preschool"

December 14 & 15, 2024

5:30 PM & 9:00 AM



A Home for All

Light the candles, deck the halls We are making room for all
Practice hospitality Give in Christian charity
But to create lasting change A transactional exchange
Won't make straight our crooked ways Or lift valleys into plains
Prophets of the ages call: "We must build a home for all!"

Stack the gifts beneath the tree Hang the lights where all can see
Send cards full of Christmas cheer To the family far and near
But the greatest gift we share Is a world that's just and fair
Though it feels so far away We work for God's promised day
Prophets of the ages call: "We must build a home for all!"

Set the table for a feast Chrystal, china, silver gleam
Once the banquet has been blessed Gather 'round in Christmas best
But Christ's table has been set With the simplest meal of bread
Offering abundant grace Here all people promised day
Prophets of the ages call: "We must build a home for all!"

Anna Strickland (22021)

INVOCATION

We gather for worship in the name of the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.

We could choose to ignore it.

We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

We hear it. In listening, we worship.

Let us draw near to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

Joy is hearing, “Come on over, it has been too long!”

Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

Joy is the energy of a new season.

Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

*Hark, the Glad Sound!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

ELW 886 1,6
ELW 172

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

It takes courage to tell the truth. John the Baptist knew it. His job as a prophet certainly could not have been easy. And you and I know it. Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy.

In our prayer of confession, may we channel some of John the Baptist's courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame ourselves or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest.

So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now

to a God who couldn't love us any more than God already does. Let us pray. . .

Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.

Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news:

We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GREETING**

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside, if you are my home, then your word is the street light guiding me there. So I want you to know—I am walking your way, we are walking your way, and we are looking for a light. And our feet are dirty—we've lost our way a time or two. And our bags are heavy—we're carrying an array of grief and fear on our backs. But we're on our way. We're looking for your light. We're listening for your word. When you see us coming, when you feel our hearts move, we hope you'll run down the driveway and catch us. Leave the light on. We are on our way home. Gratefully we pray, amen.

READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-18

SERMON

"A Home For All"

Pastor Deb Grismer

SONG OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249 1,2,3

**On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

(9 am) SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Myca Reed Cuny

PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Whom do you present for baptism?

We present Myca Reed Cuny for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

As you bring Myca to receive the gift of baptism, all of you, as well as this community of faith, are entrusted with responsibilities:

*to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the Word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the Holy Scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that Macy may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.*

Do you promise to help Myca grow in the Christian faith and life and live in the covenant of her baptism and in communion with the church?

We do, with God's help and with the help of Myca's Godparents, family and community of faith.

Godparents, do you promise to nurture Myca in the Christian faith as you are empowered by the Holy Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of her baptism and in communion with the church?

We do and we ask God to help and guide us.

(Please stand) People of God, do you promise to support and pray for Myca's parents and Godparents as they raise Myca in the Christian faith?

We do and we ask God to help and guide us.

Do you promise to walk with Myca as you are able, support and pray for her and help her to fulfill the baptismal covenant I just named as she grows in life and faith?

We do and we ask God to help and guide us.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

APOSTLES CREED

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 hell. 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.

BAPTISM

Myca Reed Cuny, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray,

We give you thanks, O God, that through the water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Myca with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Myca, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Candle: Myca, let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

WELCOME

Let us welcome Myca into our family of faith.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share as members of the priesthood of all believers. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

***(5:30 pm) APOSTLES' CREED**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(9 am) OFFERING

O Little Town of Bethlehem

David Paxton

(9 am) OFFERING RESPONSE

He Came Down

ELW 253

**He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.**

OFFERING PRAYER

God who welcomes us home, who creates space, who leaves a chair with our name on it – we have two coats and we are giving one away.

That's what this offering is. It's our second coat. It's our hearts on our sleeves. It's our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this one. So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day. Gratefully we pray, amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*God of open doors and porch lights, of welcome mats and candles in the window— we cannot thank you enough for your open door policy. You are forever welcoming us home. Holy God, **hear our prayer.***

*In a world that puts hand rails on park benches so that those without a roof over their heads cannot lay down, you offer something radically different. You welcome all of us, just as we are. You paint a picture of a world that could be. You remind us that there is enough love to go around, and that neighbor helping neighbor is who we are called to be. Thank you for the voice in the wilderness that calls to us. Thank you for the radical welcome and the unchanging love. We give gratitude for the people and places that are home to us. We pray for those who don't have a place to call home and organizations and volunteers who are working hard so there might be a home for all. Holy God, **hear our prayer.***

We pray for immigrants and refugees navigating the waters of trauma, change, and loss. We pray for those who experience homelessness and for those scraping together every coin to pay last month's rent. We pray for those who do not feel at home in their body. We pray for those who do not feel at home in your church—wounded by strict rules or judgmental accusations. We pray for those who long to build a home with another, but instead find themselves eating another meal alone. We pray for those who are grieving, including the family and friends of Shirley Heald _____ . We pray for those who are sick or recovering, including _____

Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, there are so many who need a home, so help us be builders of that new day. Give us the courage of John, who saw a way forward so clearly. Turn our words into action and our conviction into change. Gracious God, you are a God of open doors and welcome home celebrations. Teach us to be the same. And as we learn, and as we grow, we continue to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying... Our Father...

LORD'S PRAYER

*SENDING SONG

Rise Up, O Saints of God!
Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

ELW 669 vs 1,2,3,4

Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.

*BLESSING and DISMISSAL

*As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed – so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation – God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – go in peace. **Thanks be to God.***

(9 am) POSTLUDE

Christmas Carol Medley

Robert Hughes

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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