

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 21 & 22, 2024

5:30 pm & 9:00 am



Come on Home

We all know the feeling— the shaky ground,
sinking sand, water-is-rising, sun-is-fading feeling
that makes steady breathing an entire miracle,
and holding back tears a marvel in and of itself.

And when those days come, I call my parents.
And I call my church, and I call my friends,
and they say in unison what God has said from the very beginning,
which is, "Come on home."

Is there anything more healing than an open door?
If you're seeking sanctuary, if the waters are rising— listen.
It may be hard to hear, but God is always saying,
"Come on home."

By Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are seeking— deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking— joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

We are seeking— the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking, but here in this space, We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary. God is here. We are found. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

God's love is like an open door.

God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

God's love is a warm bed to fall into.

God's love is a table with room for you.

God's love is a crackling fireplace.

God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

God's love is a home for all.

Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts. Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

Gather Us In

ELW 532 1,3

**Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

***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.

Let us pray.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God,

We come today hoping that it will feel a bit like an open door, like Elizabeth welcoming Mary, like coming home. We want to find sanctuary here. We want to breathe easier just hearing your Word. Open the door to our hearts so that we might find sanctuary in your words. Gratefully we pray, amen.

(9 am) SPECIAL MUSIC

Thou Art Holy

Craig Courtney

1898 Beckenhorst Press

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

SERMON

"Seeking Sanctuary"

Pastor Deb Grismer

SONG OF THE DAY

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 251

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;

I sing my Savior's praise!

You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.

Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.

To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.

With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.

The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.

To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;

the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.

Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

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 into 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 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

CHILDREN'S TIME WITH GIZZY

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR DEBORA GRISMER

Presentation

The pastor being installed and a representative of the calling body come before the presiding minister and the assembly.

Having been authorized by the church to install Pastor Debora Grismer, our co-worker in the gospel, as Senior Pastor, I now ask for certification of this call.

A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.

After prayerful deliberation, we, of the family of faith at South Canyon Lutheran Church, have called Pastor Debora Grismer to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of Senior Pastor. I present Pastor Deb and this letter certifying the call.

Address and Questions

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

Pastor Deb, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them. **Amen.**

The assembly stands.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, will you receive Pastor Deb as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard Pastor Deb as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for Pastor Deb? Will you help and honor Pastor Deb in carrying out this ministry? In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.

Pastor Debora Grismer, the office of Senior Pastor is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessing

The newly installed pastor may kneel as the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

People of God, I present to you [Pastor] Debora Grismer, your Senior Pastor. Let us welcome Pastor Deb in the name of Christ.

Pastor Deb addresses the congregation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy God, Our prayers are often one lovely act of seeking. We bow our heads, we close our eyes, and we seek— we seek you, we seek belonging, we seek sanctuary. And what is lovely is that we know, deep in our bones, that if we knock, we will find you.

*Holy God, **hear our prayer.***

So today we pause our seeking to simply give you thanks. Thank you for the Elizabeths in our lives— the ones who have been there when we needed them most, the ones who have blessed us with joy, allowing our happiness to take up space, the ones who have opened the door for us and ushered us in.

*Holy God, **hear our prayer.***

And thank you not only for the Elizabeths in our lives, but for the strangers who have cared for us, for those older and wiser who paved the way before us, and for individuals who share no relation to us, but love us like family. Our lives are undoubtedly better because of them.

*Holy God, **hear our prayer.***

Gracious God, we also pray for those without an Elizabeth in their life. We pray for those who do not have a hand to hold in the dark, who do not have a front porch to show up on, or even a porch to call their own. We pray for those in life transitions who carry that fear and anxiety alone, and we pray for all who know loneliness in the face of these hardships. We lift to you the family and friends of Shirley, Bert, Vivian, Darrell and all who are grieving this holiday season. We pray for those who are ill, including:

Wrap your arms around those individuals. Circle back, again and again, dwelling tenderly in the wounds of their hearts until healing might be found. Open our eyes so that we might see the need in our own backyard.

*Holy God, **hear our prayer.***

*Thank you for being our safe place. Thank you for always welcoming us home. With joy in our hearts, we lift these prayers to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Lord. **Amen***

***(9 am) OFFERING**

Angels and Shepherds

Paula Lou Harris

***(9 am) OFFERING RESPONSE**

He Came Down

ELW 253

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

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Good and gracious God,

We give these gifts for the seekers. We give these gifts for those who need sanctuary. We give these gifts for those who build sanctuaries. We give these gifts for those who have lost sanctuary, and for those who find sanctuary all over the place. Use these gifts to bring us closer to home. With joy and hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Mary's world turned upside down with the visit of an angel. This is a moment we can relate to, because our world has seemed to turn upside down more than once.

When those moments come, we hope to respond with grace; but more often than not, fear can get the best of us. So today we turn to God in prayer, asking for God's guidance and grace in the places and moments we need it most. Let us pray together now...

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.

God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love. Rest in this promise: If we get lost, we will be found. If we mess up, we are forgiven. If we withhold love, God is lavish in loving us. Your sins are forgiven.

We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

***LORDS 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 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONG

What Feast of Love ELW 487 1,3
What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Creator of the Stars of Night (Ellen Shirley - soloist)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257 1,2
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

Let us pray:

*God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. Amen.*

SENDING SONG

Soon and Very Soon ELW 439 1,2
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

BLESSING

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin (Public Domain)

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love your neighbor and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(9 am) POSTLUDE

Glad Tidings

Thomas Chesterton

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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