



## **“The Greatest Story Ever Told”**

**Advent One: Wednesday, December 2, 2020  
6:00 pm**



**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER ~ Marty Haugen**

### **Opening Dialogue**

L: Today we embark on our advent journey; a journey that begins with the light of a single candle.

**All: In a world as dark as ours, one candle provides so little light. How can we find our way?**

L: The light will lead us. The Spirit will guide us. And the people will be promised the gift of hope.

**All: But we have been disappointed by hope before. We have hoped in governments, hoped in possessions, and hoped in relationships. They always let us down.**

L: Ah, but this hope is promised by God! This promise is secure, and the hope God provides leads to everlasting life.

**All: God, give us faith to follow one candle in the darkness, for we are a people who are desperate for hope. And yet we are a people of hope. Amen. May it be so!**

### **Service of Light — Procession (*Sung*)**

L: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

**All: the light no darkness can overcome;**

L: Stay with us now, for it is evening,

**All: and the day is almost over.**

L: Let your light scatter the darkness,

**All: and shine within your people here.**

### **Service of Light — Evening Hymn (*Sung*)**

<sup>1</sup> Joyous light of heav'nly glory, Loving glow of God's own face,  
You who sing creation's story, Shine on ev'ry land and race.  
Now as evening falls around us, We shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows, Come and light our hearts anew.

<sup>2</sup> In the stars that grace the darkness, In the blazing sun of dawn,  
In the light of peace and wisdom, We can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder, Love that warms the weary soul,  
Love that bursts all chains asunder, Set us free and make us whole.

<sup>3</sup> You who made the heaven's splendor, Ev'ry dancing star of night,  
Make us shine with gentle justice, Let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation, Gentle Christ who lights our way,  
Loving Spirit of salvation, Lead us on to endless day.

## Service of Light — Evening Thanksgiving *(Sung)*

L: May God be with you all,

**All: and also with you;**

L: Let us sing our thanks to God,

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe - from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

**All: Amen.**

## Psalmody, Readings and Canticles — Psalm 141 *(Sung)*

**All: Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

### Group 1:

O God, I call to you, come to me now;  
O hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,  
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart  
may the light of your love be burning bright.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,  
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

All praise to the God of all – Creator of life;  
All praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,  
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

*(Spoken)*

L: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

**All: Amen.**

### The Lesson:

John 1:1-14 — God's Story

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### Group 2 (begins a phrase behind Group 1):

O God, I call to you, come to me now;  
O hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,  
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart  
may the light of your love be burning bright.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,  
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

All praise to the God of all – Creator of life;  
All praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,  
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

**Meditation**

“The Greatest Story Ever Told”

Pastor Karna Moskalik

**Musical Offering**

“Light of the World”

The Olson Family

Kathy Pino

**Offering**

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L: The Light shines in the darkness

**All: and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**The Annunciation — Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38** (*Sung*)

L: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

**The Magnificat — Luke 1:46-55** (*Sung*)

<sup>1</sup> My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

<sup>2</sup> You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and up lifted the humble of heart,  
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

<sup>3</sup> My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

**Litany and Prayers** (*Hum while Leader prays, then respond.*)

**All: Hmmm. God of mercy, hold us in love.**

*Repeat until Leader sings:*

L: Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

**All: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

*(Spoken)*

L: Great and merciful god, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

L: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**All:** 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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**Final Blessing** (*Sung*)

L: Let us bless our God:

**All:** praise and thanks to you.

L: May God, Creator bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of Love be our guide and path, for all of our days.

**All:** Amen.

(*Spoken*)

L: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God!