

Prairieland Parish

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

Advent Liturgy Reading

Exodus 3:1-14

Moses at the Burning Bush

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb,[a] the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

9 The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

The Divine Name Revealed

13 But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am." [b] He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'"

(Isaiah 2:3 NRSV).

“Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God’s ways and that we may walk in Gods paths””

Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.

Today we light the first candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God’s people for the promise to be fulfilled.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we rejoice that we can come into Your house today and worship You with those who love You, too. Thank You for inspiring and leading Your people to establish Your house here in this place.

We pray that all who worship here might experience Your love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. O Almighty God, You are the great I AM who rescued Your people from their slavery in Egypt and redeemed us from our bondage to sin and its death by Your beloved Son. Grant that we may recognize Your presence, rejoice in Your saving gifts, and remember Your mercy in every time and space ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

We Hear God’s Word

Gospel Reading..... John 15:1–8

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus the True Vine

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes[a] to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become[c] my disciples.

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FAITH HYMN UMH

“Message”

Joys/Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

(Inspired by Psalm 122)

God of love and mercy, thank you for your great gift of your Child, Jesus Christ, who fills us with all that we need.

Merciful God, we are fully aware that not all your children are able to bask in joy or peace during this season.

We pray for peace within all walls: walls within our own homes, walls that surround each city and town.

We pray that during this season of Advent we may usher your promise of salvation into our lives and that we may share the Good News of our Savior with others.

We pray that the promise of your birth may be the promise that we live in and share at home, at work and at school.

We pray for those we name before you this day....

May we be moved to compassion and action in your name.

We pray this in the powerful name of Jesus Christ who taught us all to pray, saying...

Offertory

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

God of peace and justice, in the past year we have once again witnessed the fruits of war: lives cut short, children made orphans, homes devastated, and hearts broken. These gifts we give this morning, may they be used to make human hearts ready for peace and for the reign of your son. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

Departing Hymn

Benediction

Go forth and live as one instructed in the ways of the Lord.

Take the weapons of your life

and turn them into instruments of peace and justice.

Praise be to our God who shows us the way!

***POSTLUDE**