

Monroe United Methodist Church

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December 2, 2018 8:00 and 10:45 Worship

The Church Gathers in God's Name

PRELUDE

John Daane

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lord Jesus, when I prepare for the first time you came, let me also prepare for the next time you'll come. Many of my Christmas events are already on the calendar; your next coming cannot be put on the calendar. But that doesn't mean I can't get ready... whenever, whatever. I want to be with you. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING CHORUS

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**See, the Lamb, so long expected comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiven;
So when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN Joy in the Morning Natalie Sleeth
**There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day,
for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day.**

Faith We Sing 2284

**There'll be peace and contentment evermore,
there'll be peace and contentment evermore,
every heart, every voice on that day will rejoice,
there'll be peace and contentment evermore.**

**There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere,
there'll be love and forgiveness everywhere,
and the way of the Lord will that day be restored,
there'll be love and forgiveness everywhere.**

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UNISON PRAYER

Father in heaven,
we live in an uncertain present and yearn assurance about the future.
Our hearts desire the warmth of your love;
our minds perform better in the light of your Word;
our bodies are designed to serve you and neighbor;
our relationships thrive within the confines of your moral limits.
Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us patience to wait
with love that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his
presence and welcoming the light of his truth. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

The Church Hears God's Word

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Elizabeth & Zechariah

SPECIAL MUSIC Prepare the Way of the Lord Jane Olson (10:45)

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: Hope Jeremiah 33:14-16

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, ESV

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21: 8, 9, 25-36, The Message

[Jesus] said, "Watch out for the doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, 'I'm the One,' or, 'The end is near.' Don't fall for any of that. When you hear of wars and uprisings, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history and no sign of the end."

"It will seem like all hell has broken loose — sun, moon, stars, earth, sea, in an uproar and everyone all over the world in a panic, the wind knocked out of them by the threat of doom, the powers-that-be quaking.

"And then—then!—they'll see the Son of Man welcomed in grand style — a glorious welcome! When all this starts to happen, up on your feet. Stand tall with your heads high. Help is on the way!"

He told them a story. "Look at a fig tree. Any tree for that matter. When the leaves begin to show, one look tells you that summer is right around the corner. The same here — when you see these things happen, you know God's kingdom is about here. Don't brush this off: I'm not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too — these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won't wear out.

"But be on your guard. Don't let the sharp edge of your expectation get dulled by parties and drinking and shopping. Otherwise, that Day is going to take you by complete surprise, spring on you suddenly like a trap, for it's going to come on everyone, everywhere, at once. So, whatever you do, don't go to sleep at the switch. Pray constantly that you will have the strength and wits to make it through everything that's coming and end up on your feet before the Son of Man."

SERMON

The Church Responds to God

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PERSONAL PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, help us honor your name.

**Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you,
as you are obeyed in heaven. Give us our food for today.**

Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.

Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.

The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.

HYMN

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

2002 Thank You Music

In Christ alone my hope is found,

He is my light, my strength, my song.

This cornerstone, this solid ground,

firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,

when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!

This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.

Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.

For every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.

Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!

And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the pow'r of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

**No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand,
till he returns or calls me home; here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

DEPART WITH BLESSING



Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6)

Our church exists so that all people might

find the Way, know the Truth, and experience the Life!"