



**First Sunday in Advent
† November 28, 2021**

Edina Community Lutheran Church
4113 West 54th Street
Edina, Minnesota 55424
952-926-3808
www.eclc.org



GATHERING

Welcome newcomers to ECLC.
Text 952-207-0890 and let us
know you are here! Thank you
for worshipping with us today.

In this rite for Advent candle-lighting, the candle flames represent the goodness and new life God brings to the human experience.

The candles mark the places or people or days that await this goodness. The balance between those candles that are lit and those unlit remind us that God's work in this world remains incomplete, even as it visibly breaks into our world.

"My Heart Shall Sing" Advent Candle-Lighting by Barn Geese Worship is licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0.

SETTLING SONG *Breathe Together*

Ray Makeever

Breathe together, as one body breathe together
Let the spirit weave together
Faith and hope and love and let us be
The living breath of God.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *Wait for the Lord*

Marty Haugen

Wait for the Lord whose day is near
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

L: Each week as we approach the Advent of our Savior Jesus on Christmas, we acknowledge what God's people have always known: even when God is active in this world, hope is a work in progress. Each candle represents a person, place or moment in time that still awaits the fullness of God's goodness. Yet we are witnesses to God's work in this world. Just as a small spark can give new life to a dry wick, we believe the fire of God's presence can ignite God's purpose in this place.

L: God, through your love,

C: a familiar light can banish the fear of the other.

L: Through your love,

C: the warmth of good cheer can extinguish cold-hearted injustice.

L: Through your love,

C: the song of faith can rekindle hope for the hopeless.

L: We light this candle as a small act of our great anticipation.

The candle is lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy God, we are watching you.
Like the high-schooler watching the minute hand
at the end of the schoolday's last class;
like the hourly worker checking her watch
before shift change;
like the child waiting for the little wooden bird
to sound its coo-coo from the clock;
our eyes are fixed on you.
Give us a sign that it's time.
It's time, God, for you to show up.
Time for you to free us.
Time for our redemption. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING PSALM 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look at you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous. Show me your ways, O God, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love for the sake of your goodness, O God. You are gracious and upright, O God; therefore you teach sinners in your way. You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way. All your paths, O God, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Advent Alleluia*

Alleluia, Alleluia, O come Emmanuel
Salvation bring to all people, O come Emmanuel
Prepare the way, Prepare the way, O come Emmanuel

GOSPEL LUKE 21:25-36

L: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said], "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then [Jesus] told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the realm of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
And move us from this worldly spell
Our spirits cry in exile here
Until the song of Love appears
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
For Love is coming now to dwell

O Come into our wilderness and light
The fire that burns within us through the night
There, open up our hearts to be
Attuned to those the world will never see
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
For Love is coming now to dwell

Light a Candle!

In our faith tradition, light can represent the presence of God and a lit candle often also symbolizes a prayer.

You are invited to light a candle on the votive candle screen as you enter for worship, after communion, or whenever you feel moved to do so.

Our lit candles together represent our prayers lifted up to God!

What is Extended Advent?

As we return to our building and lean into the hopes and promises of Christ's birth at Christmas, we still very much waiting. This year, to lift up this holy liminal time, ECLC will adopt a season of Extended Advent, November 7 through December 19. The North American Academy of Liturgy began promoting an extended Advent reminding us that a longer Advent predates the tradition of a four-week Advent. In the early centuries of the church, the length of Advent varied; sometimes it was three weeks, sometimes six or seven, sometimes forty days. And so this year we are setting aside more space and time to reflect. What are you waiting for? What waiting is too hard? Where have you given up hope? How might God meet us in our waiting season?

What does it mean to say a creed when you might not understand or agree with elements of it? For example, many contemporary Christians do not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. Yet, we ask people to say, here, that they "give their heart" to this confession of faith. Each of us reconciles these intellectual conflicts in our own way. Some remain silent and don't say the creed, or only say parts. Some people reconcile the dissonance by placing themselves in the context of the whole church throughout the ages. Others find some liberation in letting go of a need to agree intellectually with every word and release themselves into the wider tradition. Yet others find it spiritually freeing to let the questions remain. What does the creed mean in your faith? Is it hard for you to say? Do you treasure it and keep it close to your heart? Do you give it any thought at all? How does this "new" version resonate, or not, with your faith?

We are grateful to one another and to God for the financial contributions which support the mission and ministry of the church. ECLC can accept cash, checks, and electronic giving on a one-time or recurring basis. You can give via eclc.org (look for the "Give" tab), or by texting an amount to (952) 260-6075. For gifts of securities, insurance, IRA RMDs, etc., please contact Kienan at the church office.

THE (EXPANSIVE LANGUAGE) APOSTLES' CREED

L: Let us join together in giving our hearts to God who is beyond us, among us, and within us.

C: **We give our hearts to you, God Beyond Us, creator of heaven and earth. We give our hearts to you, Jesus Christ, God Among Us, our model and savior. You were conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, were crucified, died, and were buried; you descended to the dead. On the third day you rose again; you ascended into heaven, you are seated at the right hand of God Beyond Us, and you will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

We give our hearts to you, Holy Spirit, God Within Us. We give our hearts to the community of the church, to the communion of saints, to the practice of forgiveness, to the hope of the resurrection, and to the promise of life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

After each petition the following is said:

L: God of hope,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C:** **And also with you.**

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Fear Not*

Fear not for I have redeemed you
I have called you by name
When you pass through the waters I am with you
You are mine, you are mine.
When you walk through the fire you will not be burned
And the flame will not consume you
For I am the Lord your God.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to God.**

L: Let us give thanks to God.

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- L: It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise...
...in one unending hymn:
- C: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.**
- L: Remembering Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the
mystery of our faith with audacious expectation:
- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- L: Come, Lord Jesus! **C: Come, Lord Jesus!**
L: Come, Holy Spirit! **C: Come, Holy Spirit!**
- L: All honor and glory are yours, God in Trinity and Unity, God of songs and
silences, God of beginnings and endings, from now until the end of time.
- C: Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Gracious God 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Loving God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power,
form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS**SENDING SONG***The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

Jose' Aguiar

The Lord now sends us forth, With hands to serve and give
To make of all the earth, A better place to live
The angels are not sent into our world of pain
To do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name
This falls to you and me and all who are made free
Help us, O Lord, we pray to do your will today

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

"My Heart Shall Sing" Eucharistic Prayer
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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all to receive
this gift of Christ's presence
given in this meal. Here is
offered for you the forgive-
ness of sins and the promise
of life in God.

Communion will be direct-
ed by the ushers; Cups are
in trays—filled communion
cups contain grape juice,
empty cups receive wine.
Gluten-free wafers are
available on the altar. See
bulletin "Welcome" page
for wafer ingredients. Please
take a wafer as you move
to your place around the
table.

Children are welcome to
commune at their parent's
discretion. Parents, please
help them take a commun-
ion cup (pre-filled have
grape juice) and hold out
their hands to receive
bread. Children who do not
receive communion are
invited to the table to re-
ceive a blessing.

If you would like to receive
communion and are un-
able to come forward,
please inform an usher and
a pastor will come to you.

All children are invited to
process out with the worship
leaders during the last verse of
the Sending Song in order to
lead in the Dismissal.

Go in peace, Serve the Lord

WELCOME

Welcome to Worship at Edina Community Lutheran Church

ECLC is a faith community bearing witness to God's YES for the world. Worship is at the center of life together. We gather weekly around Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in our living as people of God. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

It is a community where all are welcome in every aspect of congregational life. ECLC is also an ECO-Faith community that seeks to walk gently on the earth and witness to God's love of the creation. ECLC also seeks to live out its faith by being a place of non-violent sanctuary and therefore does not permit firearms on its property.

We seek to use inclusive language for God and humanity in all of our worship and publications. Since some beloved hymnody is difficult to alter, we invite you to make appropriate substitutions when singing to make hymns more inclusive. May the cacophony of our language remind us of the rich diversity of images we have for God.

Children are welcome in worship.

- ◆ Activity bags and children's books available in entryway.
- ◆ Kids In Worship: Activities for kids & parents in SW corner of the Sanctuary.
- ◆ Diaper-changing tables are available in the restrooms.

Accessibility

- ◆ Gender-neutral restrooms are available on both levels of the building.
- ◆ Handicapped accessible restrooms on both levels of the building.
- ◆ Gluten-Free Communion wafers are available on the altar. The wafer ingredients are: filtered water, sweet rice flour, potato flour, organic palm fruit oil, potato starch, methylcellulose, sunflower lecithin.

	9:30 a.m. worship	11:00 a.m. worship
Presiding	Pastor Jeff Sartain	
Preaching	Pastor Anna Helgen	
Music	Paul Andress	
Assisting Ministers	Naomi Chalk	Janet Thompson
Lectors	Julie Carr	Doris Pagelkopf
Altar Committee	Donna Beatty, Vicki Holm, Sara Severson	

At ECLC's Annual Meeting on February 5, 2017, the congregation approved the following statement and made a commitment toward racial justice: *Racial injustice continues to thrive in our country and communities. Our Christian response is to walk in solidarity with people of color, because standing silent sanctions continued violence. We recognize that those who are white, are intertwined in a network of unearned privilege. We, as a congregation, are compelled to advocate for racial justice. We invite other congregations to join together in expressing their commitments to live out our shared faith- active in love - in the struggle for equity and justice.*