

The Olive Branch

November 22, 2017

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

In former contexts I would occasionally offer a full performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Christ the King Sunday. On one occasion, the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* called it "an early performance." I rather thought of it as a "late performance" (although astounded yet grateful that a Strib newspaper writer actually acknowledged anything musical at a church...).

Handel's oratorio *Messiah* traces the entire church year from Advent to Christ the King "Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who Was Slain."

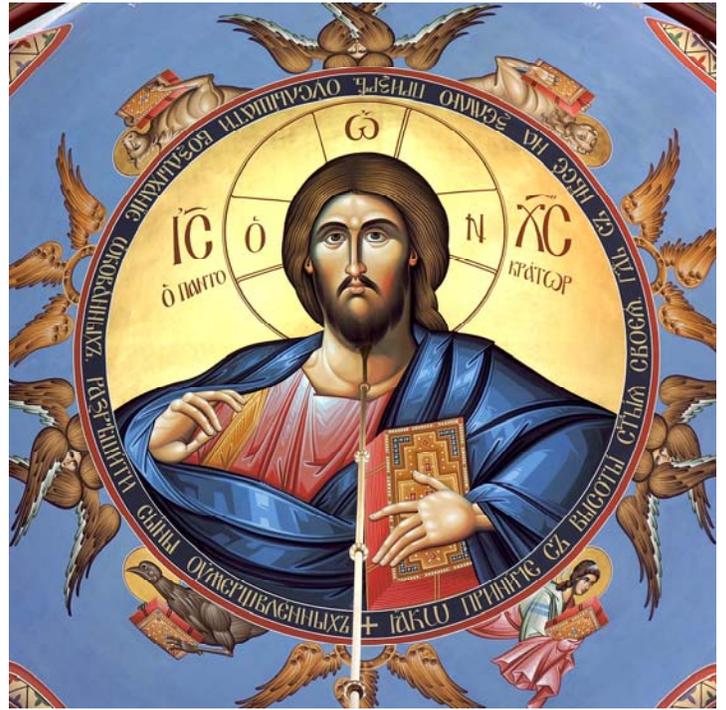
Christ the King Sunday marks the END - the last Sunday of the Journey we started last Advent. This is the day that says "Where's all this going?"

For us in the northern hemisphere nature around us beautifully illustrates this journey. The journey begins at the darkest time of year (December) with Advent - where deep inside us (like Mary) Christ is born. Christ becomes known as this awareness grows in Epiphany, and light begins to return. In Lent, we reflect on our Baptism, again withdrawing and connecting with the core things; the root system. In Easter we bloom with new life in new light and warmth. Pentecost brings the breath, and then over this long season we grow, fully greened.

Now we find ourselves as Susan has put it, "at the dying of the year". Plant life sheds the dead leaves and fruit, and retreats into the darkness of the earth to prepare again for new life. We gather the harvest which sustains us, for which we give thanks.

Then, this is where all this is going: back to God. Where we sit at God's side. As we often pray, "through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you (God) and the Holy Spirit now and forever."

THAT's where this is all going.



Sunday Readings

November 26, 2017

Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Sunday's Adult Forum

Sunday, November 26: "Where Our Heart Is," part 3 of a 3-part series presented by Pastor Crippen.

This series is an exploration of capitalism, the Market as god, and life in Christ, with Jesus' admonition in mind: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

New Member Welcome

Mount Olive will welcome new members (or associate members) into membership on **Sunday, December 10, at the 10:45 liturgy**. A welcome brunch for the whole congregation will follow the service at 12:15 pm.

If you would like to be included in this new member group, or if you know someone who would like an invitation to join, please contact Cha at the church office (welcome@mountolivechurch.org or 612/827-5919) or speak with Pastor Crippen. Thanks!

Gather at the River

An EcoFaith Cross-Congregational Gathering

"Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river..."

You are cordially invited by the Minneapolis Synod ELCA to an Eco-Faith gathering centering on water along the Mississippi River. This event will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 5:30-7pm, First Congregational Church UCC, 500 8th Ave SE, Minneapolis.

Come learn about environmental justice through the lens of water stewardship and participate in worship along the Mississippi River near St. Anthony Falls. We'll gather at First Congregational Church at St. Anthony Main, and begin with an education opportunity to better understand our waters and how to steward them. Following this time of learning, we'll walk together to the Mississippi River bank for a water-centered liturgy of song, prayer, and reflection. It will be a powerful time to learn and experience ways we can engage water justice in our congregations.

Join us in finding connection and restoration amid these the waters of life.

Come one, come all!

Book Discussion

For the December 9 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will read *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston. For January 13, they will read the *Regeneration Trilogy* by Pat Barker. The three novels in the series are: *Regeneration*, *The Eye in the Door*, and *The Ghost Road*.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the West Assembly area. All readers welcome!

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, Nov. 23, 10:00 a.m.

Bring non-perishable food items to help re-stock local food shelves. Monetary donations are especially welcome (for every \$1 donated, food shelf personnel are able to buy about \$9 worth of food!)

As has been our custom for a number of years, the entire offering received at the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day will be given to local food shelves.

Calendar

Wednesday, November 22

10:00 am Staff Meeting
No Choirs this evening

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Day

10:00 am *Thanksgiving Day Eucharist*

Friday, November 24 - Church offices closed

Sunday, November 26 - Christ the King

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship

9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum

10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship

Monday, November 27

7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting

Tuesday, November 28

Noon Bible Study

4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Mark your calendars!

The Missions Committee will be hosting a Fair Trade Craft Sale on December 3, 10, and 17. Items from SERRV, a nonprofit Fair Trade organization will be available for purchase after both services.

Plan now to start your Christmas shopping!

Seniors' Advent Luncheon to be Held Wednesday, December 6

Attention Seniors (65 and over)! Be on the lookout for your invitation to the annual Advent Luncheon for Seniors. The invitations for this fun annual event will soon be in the mail!

If you are age 65 or over and have not received your invitation, it's likely because we do not have your birthdate (or correct birthdate) on file. If that's the case, please call the church office and let us know so that we can update your membership information. All members of the Mount Olive Community age 65 and over are cordially invited!

Storytelling for Survivors: Exile, Empire, and the Shape of Scripture

The second Thursday Bible study series of this year begins on Nov. 16, and will meet in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Vicar Christy will lead this exploration of texts related to the Babylonian Exile (597-539 B.C.E.), with an emphasis on understanding the writers as survivors making sense of crises.

How did the experience of conquest and displacement shape how the ancient faith community told its story, and how do the questions they asked about God still live with us today? Over the five weeks, we will read selections from Kings, various prophets, the Psalms, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Esther.

We begin at 6 pm with a light supper.

All are welcome.

National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival: “No Room?”

This cherished annual event creates a holy experience for audiences in the awe-inspiring Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. In 2017, the birth of Christ as a refugee story is more poignant and relevant than ever. In this time of unwelcome, discord, and deepening division, is there room for Christ to be born today?

Friday, December 8, 4:30 & 8:00pm

Saturday, December 9, 8:00pm

Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Tickets are available by calling Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006, or order online at NLCA.com.

Upcoming Events Here and About Town

- Dec. 1 (5 & 8 pm) Dec.2 (2 & 5 pm) **Augsburg University Advent Vespers**, Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.
- Dec. 1 (7:30 pm), Dec. 2 (4:30 pm), Dec. 3 (3pm) – **Concordia University Christmas Concert**, Buetow Music Center Auditorium, Concordia University, St. Paul
- Dec. 3, 4 pm – Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts’ **Advent Procession**, Mount Olive. Free and open to the public.
- Dec. 8 (4:30 & 8pm), Dec. 9 (8pm) – **National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival**, Basilica of St. Mary. For ticket information call Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006, or order online at NLCA.com.
- December 8 & 9 (8 pm) and December 10 (2 pm) – **Twin Cities Gay Men’s Chorus Gay Holiday Spectacular**, Ted Mann Concert Hall, West Bank campus of University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. For ticket information visit www.tcgmc.org.

News from the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministries & Outreach

Give Thanks. Give Food. Give Care. Give.

As we approach Thanksgiving and the winter season, it is time to collect food and goods for our neighbors in need. Here is what would be helpful for our partners at Sabathani, CES, and our own use here:

- Non-perishable food items such as; canned fruit, canned meats, pasta, rice, oil, flour, sugar, fruit juice, stew, peanut butter & jelly.
 - Prepackaged, single serve soups and meals like ramen, boxed meals, and stews which can go to folks on the street and can be warmed in microwaves.
 - Hygiene supplies such as; socks, razors, feminine products, toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, dish and laundry soap.
- Cash goes the farthest for food shelves! Donations can be marked "Thanksgiving" on blue envelopes. All donations will be brought forward at the service on Thanksgiving Day and brought to our partners the following week. Thank you for your care for our neighbors!

Cold Weather Gear

Stay warm and keep others cozy! Neighborhood Ministries is collecting coats, hats, scarves, and mittens to be given away during Community Meals this winter. Please drop new or gently used donations in the box by the coat area. Thank you!

Advent Begins

Advent begins next Sunday, December 3.

The Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts Advent Procession will be held that afternoon, Dec. 3, at 4:00 p.m.

Midweek Advent Vespers will take place each Wednesday evening during Advent, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Music & Fine Arts' Advent Procession Service

Sunday, December 3, 2017 - 4:00 pm

Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent. Candles, incense, and beautiful music help draw all into this season of hope in the darkest time of the year.

All are welcome.

DECEMBER, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:30 am - Confirmation 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox
3 – <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> FOOD COLLECTION FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – Theological Discussion 4 pm – Advent Procession	4 7 pm – N.A.	5 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – Missions Committee	6 10 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Seniors’ Advent Lunch 5:30 – Neighborhood Ministries Comm. 7 pm – Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	7 6:00 pm – Bible Study	8	9 9:30 am - Confirmation 10 am – Book Discussion
10 – <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Eucharist, with Reception of New Members Noon – New Member Luncheon 6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Dinner	11 7 pm – Vestry Meeting	12 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open	13 10 am – Staff Mtng. 7 pm – Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	14 6:00 pm – Bible Study	15	16 9:30 am - Confirmation 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal
17 – <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Eucharist	18 6:30 pm – Reconciling Works Committee meeting 7 pm – N.A.	19 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open	20 10 am – Staff Mtng. 7 pm – Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	21 6:00 pm – Bible Study	22	23
24 – <i>4th Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Eve</i> 8/10:45 am – Eucharist NO Education hour 9:30 pm – Choral Prelude 10:00 pm – Holy Eucharist 31 8/10:45 am – Eucharist NO Education hour	25 – Christmas Day 9:30 – Carry-in Breakfast 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist	26 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open	27 10 am – Staff Mtng. 8 pm – N.A.	28 1:30 pm – Diaper Depot open 6:00 pm – Bible Study	29	30

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Jessica Christy*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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