



Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church

“Sharing the Blessing of God’s Grace with Aloha”

5339 Kalanianaʻole Hwy. • Honolulu, HI 96821 • 808.377.5477 • www.CalvarybytheSea.org

6th Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

10:00 am

God calls us to be a welcoming people! Welcome to people new to faith, to Christians of every flavor, and to long time Lutherans. Welcome to all with no church home, who need strength, want to follow, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new guests and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, ability and gift, to gay and straight, to old and young, to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. This is a place where we live past the labels, where we are welcome to celebrate and grieve, rejoice and recover. This is a place where our lives are made new. Welcome to worship God on this day!

An Advent Explanation

*The Western Church Year is structured around the two great celebrations of the Christian Church—**Easter** and **Christmas**. Easter, based on the Jewish Passover, is determined by the phase of the moon. It is a “moveable” date. Christmas, on the other hand, is a fixed date determined in the 4th century to coincide with the pagan observance of the winter solstice, which at that time fell on December 25.*

In the early church there was much diversity in regard to rites and calendars. Local churches were not always in sync with one another. Even today there is not uniformity in the observances of the Church Year, especially between the Western Church and the Eastern Church.

*In 2006 **The Advent Project** (theadventproject.org) began as a continuing seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy. This ecumenical project proposes to expand the observance of Advent from 4 Sundays to 7 Sundays in order to reclaim Advent “as the time of preparation for the coming of Christ at the end of time even as we welcome his appearance in our weekly assembly and in the world to which we are sent.” This expansion of Advent to 7 Sundays is an attempt to enable the Church to focus once again on the **full manifestation of the reign of God**.*

***The Advent Project** does not change any of the assigned readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. The majority of the readings in November already have an end-time focus. The final three Sundays of the 2017 Church Year (12, 19, 26 November) are simply given an Advent overlay.*

This proposal has great attractiveness for us at Calvary by the Sea Lutheran because our current Advent Worship observances are curtailed by the Honolulu Marathon and by PAC Sunday. Thus, in expanding Advent to 7 Sundays we are able as a community of faith to explore more fully and completely what it means to “long for the Lord’s coming.”

*This is the third season that Calvary joins **The Advent Project** as we all strive to follow Jesus more closely both as a community of faith and as individual disciples.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

SOUNDING OF THE PŪ

Please gather as the sounding of the conch shell calls us to worship.

GATHERING, *Ina*

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

RINGING OF THE BELL

During the ***Ring*** of the ***Bell*** please center your thoughts on *Makua*—God the Creator, *Keiki Kane*—Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and *‘Uhane Hemolele*—the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

GREETING, *Kahu Tim*

KAHU: The days are surely coming, says our God, when I will bring my

promised salvation to the world.

ALL: Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

KAHU: The days are surely coming, says our God, when justice and mercy will be executed throughout the land.

ALL: Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

KAHU: The days are surely coming, says our God, when my promised One will teach transgressors my ways, and heal the world with love and mercy.

ALL: Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

KAHU: The grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SIN, *Kahu Tim*

KAHU: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

ALL: Amen.

KAHU: Let us prepare the way of the Lord
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful Creator,
**ALL: we have made ourselves gods.
We claim what is not ours,
neglect what you have given,
and think ourselves smarter and better
than others.
Forgive us for rejecting you.
In your mercy, teach us to forgive ourselves and others,**

**accept our humanity,
and serve you in newness of life.**

**May we receive the gift of your presence this Advent
season through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *standing*

KAHU: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *standing*

ALL: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 257 *standing* “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

In the medieval Western church—from the time of Charlemagne in the eighth century or earlier, seven “O antiphons,” (sentences beginning with ‘O’), became the basis for this hymn we sing today (O Emmanuel; O Wisdom; O Lord of might; O Branch of Jesse; O Key of David; O Dayspring; O King of nations). These seven verses were sung consecutively on the seven days before Christmas. This hymn is the quintessential Advent hymn.

GREETING OF GUESTS AND SHARING OF ALOHA *seated*

KAHU: May God's aloha be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

WE HEAR THE WORD

CALL TO SCRIPTURE, *Calvary Choir*

“The Peace of God”
and “Pō La‘i E”

*Let your gentleness be known, so all may know the Lord is near.
Do not worry, do not worry; reach out to God in prayer.
Stay with all that you have learned, and all that you have heard and seen,
And the peace of God, the peace of God will be with you.*

*A quiet night, a peaceful night where all is calm.
Starlit night, moonbeams bright, angels sing, joy they bring,
“Peace on earth, good will for all,” singing, “Peace, peace.”*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61: 1–4, 8–11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

ONE: ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,

- to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
- ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- ⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
- ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
**Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great | things for them."**

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5: 16–24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

ONE: ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *standing*

“Ka Mana‘o ‘I‘o”



Ka ma-na-‘o-‘i-‘o, o ko kā-kou A-ku - a, Faith - ful, faith-ful is our God.



Ka ma-na-‘o-‘i-‘o, o ko kā-kou A-ku - a, Faith - ful, faith-ful is our God.

“Ka Mana‘o ‘I‘o (Faithful, Faithful Is Our God),” by Joe Camacho, © 1999 Joe Camacho; arr. John L. Bell, © 2002 GIA.
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This is the chorus from a song composed by Joe Camacho as the theme song for the 1999 Big Island Liturgy and Arts Conference, also known as BILAC.

GOSPEL *standing*

John 1: 6–8, 19–28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

KAHU: ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,

ALL: "Who are you?"

KAHU: ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him,

ALL: "What then? Are you Elijah?"

KAHU: He said, "I am not."

ALL: "Are you the prophet?"

KAHU: He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him,

ALL: "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who

sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

KAHU: ²³He said,
"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the
Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him,

**ALL: "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the
Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"**

Kahu: ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands
one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I
am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place
in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

KAHU: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON, Kahu Tim

"Proclaim the Year of the Lord"

SERMON HYMN 241 *standing*

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

This hymn by Paul Gerhardt was first published in 1653. Gerhardt was born near Wittenberg, and lived during the traumas and obstacles of the Thirty Years' War. The text is about welcoming the incarnate God who sets us free from our gloom, rejoicing. Gerhardt had the capacity of expressing the depth of the Christian faith in understandable ways.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS: Melissa Hanley, Nicholas Hanley, Vanessa Jansen, Christopher Jansen, Heather Robbins, Michelle Robbins, Kahu Tim

*Calvary by the Sea welcomes New Members with the **Affirmation of Baptism** which begins on page 234 in the front of the ELW.*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *standing*

KAHU: *Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.*

A brief silence.

Guiding Lord,

ALL: **bless volunteers, tribe leaders and members, Stephen Ministers, teachers, musicians, deacons, pastors, church staffs, seminarians, and those discerning a call to ministry. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Come, Lord Jesus.***

KAHU: *Creating God,*

ALL: **protect Earth's wilderness, especially where the waters and the lands are isolated and unexplored. Watch over all living creatures who remain free from human exploitation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Come, Lord Jesus.***

KAHU: *Prince of Peace,*

ALL: **send us your Spirit of unity, so that justice may spring up among the nations. Give us the will to repair the broken systems that perpetuate injustice, inequality, and oppression. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Come, Lord Jesus.***

KAHU: *Merciful God,*

ALL: **comfort your children who are mourning, bind up the brokenhearted, and heal our wounds. We pray for those who are homeless or imprisoned, refugees, those who struggle with addiction or mental illness, and all in need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Come, Lord Jesus.***

KAHU: *Lord of justice,*

ALL: strengthen and increase the ministry of food pantries, meal service deliveries, employment training programs, and advocacy for equity among all classes and races. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

W.H.A.L.E., a time of thanks for answered prayer and prayer requests.

KAHU: *Eternal God,*

ALL: clothe us in your garments of salvation, so that together we may rejoice in your presence with the saints who have died and with those unable to be with us today. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

KAHU: *We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

ALL: Amen.

Anyone desiring individual prayer and intercessions please contact Kahu Tim or members of the Stephen Ministry team at the conclusion of the worship service.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS, *Calvary Bells* “Good King Wenceslaus”

DOXOLOGY *standing*

“Ho‘onani i ka Makua Mau”

Ho‘onani i ka Makua mau. Ke keiki me ka ‘Uhane nō.
Ke Akua mau ho‘omaika‘i pū. Kō kēia ao kō kēlā ao. Amene.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERING PRAYER *standing*

KAHU: Savior of the nations, come.

Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE FED

GREAT THANKSGIVING *standing*

KAHU: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

KAHU: Lift up your hearts.


ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

KAHU: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.


ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS *standing*


The **Sanctus** and **Words of Institution** are sung following,
“...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.”



Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence And with fear and trem-bling stand;
In the night his friends be-trayed him Je-sus took the bread of life.
King of kings yet born of Ma-ry, as of old on earth he stood.
Then he took the cup of bless-ing, thanked the Lord for this sweet wine.
At his feet the six-winged se-raph, che-ru-bim with sleep-less eye,



Pon-der no-thing earth-ly mind-ed, For with bless-ing in his hand
Blessed and broke it for all peo-ple giv-en to end hu-man strife.
Lord of lords in hu-man ves-ture, in the bo-dy and the blood.
Gave it to be-wil-dered foll'-wers; Sac-ra-ment of peace di-vine.
Veil their fa-ces to the pres-ence As with cease-less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de-scend - ing Comes our hom-age to de - mand.
 Take and eat this is my bo - dy. Do this to re - mem - ber - me.
 He will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n-ly - food.
 Take and drink this cup, my love - out-poured. Do this to re - mem - ber - me.
 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

*This setting of the **Sanctus** and **Words of Institution** comes from the 2015 Professional Leaders Conference sponsored jointly by the Pacifica Synod and the Southwest Synod.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(contemporary)*

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.

At Calvary by the Sea all those who have a relationship with Jesus Christ and those who are seeking such a relationship are invited to experience the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You are invited to follow the direction of the Kahu and come forward to encircle the altar area. There are kneelers for those who prefer to kneel. Dip the bread in either the red wine or the white grape juice and then eat the element.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *seated*

KAHU: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE SENT

SENDING HYMN *standing*

“A Weary Couple”

*This hymn, from **Singing Welcome: Hymns and Songs of Hospitality to Refugees and Immigrants**, was written in 2015 by Adam M. L. Tice (1979—). Tice, a native of Pennsylvania, was educated in Indiana (Goshen College, and the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary), and is the Text Editor for the forthcoming Mennonite worship and song collection.*

1. A wea - ry cou - ple lodged with - in a sta - ble,
2. An an - gel came to Jo - seph in his dream - ing
3. Ooo

5
the on - ly space where they could spend the night.
and warned him so his fam - i - ly could flee.
Ooo

9
Were oth - er trav - 'lers hap - py to be a - ble,
As they es - caped king Her - od's e - vil schem - ing,
Ooo

13
to keep her la - bor out of mind and sight?
the son of God be - came a ref - u - gee.
Ooo

17

But choirs of an - gels heard the moth - er's weep - ing,
How man - y chil - dren die with - out such warn - ing?
But still the an - gels sing their hymn of "Glo - ry"

21

and heav - en rang with songs of peace on earth.
How man - y moth - ers that will not be con - soled,
be - yond our fears that nev - er seem to cease.

25

They went un - heard by those in com - fort sleep - ing,
their voic - es choked with an - ger, tears, and mourn - ing,
For Christ has come, and God's un - fold - ing sto - ry

29

for Je - sus came a - mong the out - casts at his birth.
for songs un - sung and sto - ries nev - er to be told?
re - deems the world to live in love, good will and peace.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING, *Kahu Tim*

KAHU: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness,
shine upon you and
scatter the darkness from before your path.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

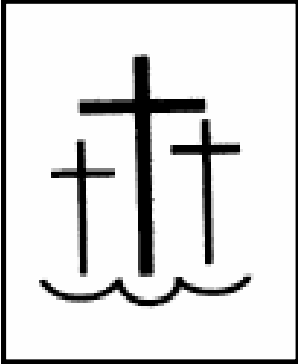
KAHU: *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOING FORTH, *Ina*

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”



INTERCESSIONS FOR HEALING

Individual and private *Intercessions for Healing* will be offered today following the morning worship by members of the Stephen Ministry. Please go to the back of the sanctuary following the *Benediction* for anointing and intercessory prayers for healing. Calvary by the Sea, in its ministry of healing, does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community nor does it promise a cure. Rather Calvary by the Sea offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in this community of faith.

Today, December 17, 2017

MINISTERS: All Members of Calvary by the Sea

KAHU: Tim Mason

WORSHIP AND THE ARTS: Tom Poole

ORGANIST AND PIANIST: Ina Young

MUSIC: Calvary Choir; Calvary Bell Choir

INSTRUMENTALISTS: Marc Adelberger, Edwin Ahlers, Charlie Holdaway, Chris Jansen, Bruce Kau, Amie Lawyer, Jon Osorio, Tim Sprowls

READER, USHERS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND ALTAR CARE: All Tribes

WORSHIP PRODUCTION SUPPORT: Fletcher Young, Erin Day, Kanoa Pick

SERVICE MUSIC: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” arr. Martha Sobaje, © 2017 Wayne Leupold Editions; “The Peace of God,” by David Haas, © 2002 GIA Publications; “Pō La’i E (Silent Night with Peace Carol),” by Franz Gruber; Peace Carol by Linda Spevacek-Avery, © 2001 Heritage Music Press; “Ka Mana’o ‘I’o (Faithful, Faithful Is Our God),” by Joe Camacho, © 1999 Joe Camacho; arr. John Bell, © 2002 GIA Publications; “Good King Wenceslaus,” arr. John a. Behnke, © 2009 The American guild of English Handbell Ringers; “A Weary Couple,” by Adam M. L. Tice, © 2017 GIA Publications; “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness,” arr. Elizabeth Krouse, © 2014 Wayne Leupold Editions. All music used by permission (One.License.net A-714410).

SERVICES AND EVENTS @ CALVARY

Friday, December 22—“Blue Christmas”

A Service for Those Who Don't Like Christmas

7:00 pm

Music and Commentary, Bobby Moderow

Saturday, December 23—Advent 7

Saturday Service Held in 'Ohana Lani, 6:30 pm

Preaching, Kahu Tim

Music, Tom

Sunday, December 24—Advent 7

7:30 and 10 am

Preaching, Kahu Tim

Music, Ina and Tom

Christmas Eve Services

Pageant and Holy Communion, 5:30 pm

“Midnight” Candlelight and Holy Communion, 10 pm

Christmas Morning, 10 am

Preaching, Kahu Tim

Music, Don Conover, Ernest Harada, and Shari Lynn