

Moran United Methodist Church

December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Joanne Brown and Patty Johnson

Welcome

Rev. Cody Natland

Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you have joined us to worship God today. Whether this is your first Sunday with us or you have been worshipping with us for many years, we want you to know that you are a beloved child of God and you belong here in our church family. If you are joining us in person, please be sure that you wear a face mask and that it covers your mouth and nose. We ask you to please refrain from singing, but invite you to hum, clap, or read along with the music.

Call To Worship and Advent Candle Lighting

Dennis Kifer

Leader: The home we long for is built on a foundation of love with Jesus as our cornerstone.

People: The home we hope for is a home that knows peace:

Leader: A peace at the core of our being

People: A peace that calms our anxiety

Leader: A peace amidst our relationships

People: A peace experienced down the street and around the world.

Leader: The home we long for is a home that knows peace. So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.

People: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love as together we build a home of peace. Let us worship God. Amen.

Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Joanne Brown

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.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley Music: Rowland Prichard © Public Domain

Prayers of the People

You are invited to offer your prayers aloud to God or share them in the video comments if joining us on Facebook. Prayer requests can also be emailed to Pastor Cody at PastorNatland@gmail.com

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Cody Natland

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn "Angels From The Realms Of Glory" Janice Wrhel and Crystal Natland

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
 Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
 Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

James Montgomery and Henry T. Smart © Public Domain

Scripture

Lois Moller

Philippians 1:3-11 (NRSV)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 1:57-80 (NRSV)

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
 for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
 He has raised up a mighty savior for us
 in the house of his servant David,
 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
 and has remembered his holy covenant,
 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
 to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
 might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
 before him all our days.
 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
 By the tender mercy of our God,
 the dawn from on high will break upon us,
 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

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*Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **Response: Thanks be to God.***

Sermon *Close To Home: Laying The Foundation*

Rev. Cody Natland

Holy Communion

Those who are worshipping in person should have received pre-packaged communion elements at the sign-in tables where you received your worship bulletins. For those joining us virtually, we invite you to gather the elements for Holy Communion as we celebrate the Lord's extensive, welcoming table. The traditional elements are bread and grape juice/wine, but you are welcome to substitute whatever elements are available to you (water, juice, crackers, etc).

Those who are worshipping in person are invited to either lift up your mask briefly to receive the communion elements, or if you would be more comfortable, to hold onto your communion elements to receive them outside/after.

Invitation to the Offering

We invite you to give as God leads you to support our church and ministries as we seek to embrace, inspire, and serve, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You may place your gift in the offering plates in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, give online at www.moranumc.org/give, or mail your gift to: 3601 E 65th Ave / Spokane, WA 99223.

Song "My Lighthouse"

Janice Wrhel with Kenny Sager (drums) and Crystal & Cody Natland

In my wrestling and in my doubts
 In my failures you won't walk out
 Your great love will lead me through
 You are the peace in my troubled sea
 You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence you won't let go
 In my questions your truth will hold
 Your great love will lead me through

You are the peace in my troubled sea
 You are the peace in my troubled sea

Chorus: My lighthouse, my lighthouse
 Shining in the darkness, I will follow you
 My lighthouse, my lighthouse
 I will trust the promise you will carry me
 Safe to shore, safe to shore
 Safe to shore, safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
 With each morning I'll rise and sing
 My God's love will lead me through
 You are the peace in my troubled sea
 You are the peace in my troubled sea

Chorus

Bridge: Fire before us, you're the brightest
 You will lead us through the storms (x4)

Chorus

Chris Llewlynn & Gareth Gilkeson © 2013 Thankyou Music

Benediction

Rev. Cody Natland

As *this* service ends, *your* service beings: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's family, all are welcomed – so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation – God, Spirit, and Son – go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

Joanne Brown

*As the service ends, we invite those seated in the Fellowship Hall to be dismissed first. Ushers will dismiss those seated in the Sanctuary by row/section. If you would like to greet one another, **we invite you to gather outside** on the entry patio for a time of fellowship, but please do not gather indoors.*

Call to Worship and Benediction adapted from Rev. Sara (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctified art.org

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Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays at 11:30 am on Zoom

Those worshipping virtually are invited to join us on Zoom for a time of fellowship and connection immediately following the worship service.

Join by Computer/Tablet/Smartphone: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96460688631>

Join by Phone (home phone, landline, or cell – no internet required)

+1(253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 964 6068 8631) +1(346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 964 6068 8631)

Worship At Moran UMC -- Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am

We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at Moran UMC. Mask wearing and physical distancing will be required by all participants, regardless of vaccination status. Children's Sunday School for children in Preschool through 5th Grade is offered in the Disciples/Shepherds Room during the worship service.

Worship Online -- Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am

Our worship services continue to be live-streamed online for those who are unable or not yet comfortable returning to in-person services. Our worship services continue to be live-streamed online for those who are unable or not yet comfortable returning to in-person services.

Children's Sunday School (Preschool through 5th Grade)

Sundays at 10:30 am in the Disciples/Shepherds Room

Sunday School is offered during our worship service in the Disciples/Shepherds Room. By opening the dividing wall between the two rooms, we will have plenty of space to socially distance children by families. There will be lots of windows to open, our HVAC system running, and a high-capacity air purifier. All children and adults must wear masks, and all teachers and other volunteers are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Please bring your child straight back to the classroom when you arrive rather than entering the Sanctuary.

2022 Pledge Cards

Thank you for your support and commitment to God's ministry at Moran UMC for the coming year! If you have a completed financial pledge card for 2022 to turn in, you can do so at any time. You can place it in an offering plate on Sunday morning, mail it to the church, or leave it in Patty Johnson's box in the church office.

Ornaments for Small Sanctuary Trees

This Advent and Christmas we want to invite every member of our church family to share a sign of their presence in our worship services (whether you attend online or in person) by helping to decorate our two small (4-foot) Christmas trees in the Sanctuary. These trees will be visible to all who attend our worship services, whether in person in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, or online via live-stream.

We invite you to donate a small, lightweight ornament that we will hang on one of these trees. Ornaments can be brought to the church on Sunday mornings or dropped off during the week during office hours. You are welcome to come to the tree and hang it yourself, or somebody else can hang it for you. If you are not able to get to the church, please call the church at (509) 448-7102 and we will make arrangements to pick up your ornament.

Weekday Morning Prayer Group -- Weekdays at 9am on Zoom

We meet on Monday through Friday mornings for prayer, scripture, and a short meditation.

Join Morning Prayer by Computer/Smartphone/Tablet: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/349727648>

Connect via Phone (home phone, landline, cell phone):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 349 727 648) +1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 349 727 648)

Monday Vespers and Holy Communion -- Mondays at 6:30pm

Connect via Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/moranchurch

Connect via Zoom (computer/tablet/smartphone: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/97155799598>

Connect via Phone (home phone, landline, cell phone):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 971 5579 9598) +1 (346) 248 7799 (Meeting ID: 971 5579 9598)

Pub Theology -- Tuesdays at 6pm on Zoom

Join by Computer/Smartphone/Tablet: <https://greater-nw.zoom.us/j/794159957>

Connect via Phone (home phone, landline, cell phone):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 794 159 957) +1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 794 159 957)

Advent Study

One Study, Two Options:

Online: Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15 pm on Zoom (beginning Dec. 1)

In Person: Thursdays at 10:00-11:30 am in the Disciples/Shepherds Room (beginning Dec. 2)

This week we will begin a four-week study on the series "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of The Grinch." This book and video series is created by Rev. Matt Rawle, a United Methodist Pastor serving in Louisiana. There are two options for how to attend this study, either on Zoom on Wednesday evenings or in person on Thursday mornings; the Wednesday and Thursday sessions will be (roughly) the same.

As usual, reading the book along with the study is encouraged, but will not be required. Pastor Cody has ordered four copies of the book that will be available after Thanksgiving; copies can also be ordered online from Cokesbury.com or Amazon. Those joining on Wednesday evenings are encouraged to watch the video clip (available at <https://bit.ly/mumcadventvideos>) *prior* to our weekly sessions; those joining on Thursday mornings will watch the video clip as part of our time together.

Join the Wednesday Evening Advent Study by Computer/Smartphone/Tablet:

<https://greater-nw.zoom.us/j/276855082>

Join the Wednesday Evening Advent Study by Phone (dial either of these numbers):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 276 855 082) +1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 276 855 082)

Christmas Carol Sing-Along

Sunday, December 19th at 11:30am – Outdoor

After worship on December 19th, we invite you to join us outside on our front patio after worship for cocoa and cookies, and then sharing together in Christmas joy as we sing traditional Christmas Carols together. This is a great opportunity for fellowship, a time that we can safely sing together, and to share our church with your family and friends.

If you would like to help by providing individually wrapped cookies for this event, please contact Theresa Kamitomo.

Lord, Hear Our Prayers...

- For **Parker Dammel**, who has been having some breathing issues and is awaiting test results.
- For **Nancy Oberst and her family** as they grieve the death of her beloved mother on Saturday.
- For Don Rodman's brother, **Chuck**, who began chemotherapy this week.
- For the **community of Oxford, Michigan**, where there was a school shooting this week, and for the **victims and their families**.
- For **Merle and Jacque Davis**, whose son-in-law Alex passed away. We pray also for Alex's wife, **Margie and all of the family**.

- For **Lori Thompson**, recovering from a severe stomach virus.
- For **Ben Moller**, who had a successful back surgery and is recovering.
- For **Roseann Thornberry** who now home and continuing to recover from a stroke.
- For **Elizabeth Williams**, recovering from breakthrough COVID-19, along with chemo and radiation.
- For **Clara**, Debbie Arnold's mother, who had surgery for breast cancer this past week.
- For **Jewel Nelson**, Lois Moller's friend, who is recovering from surgery on her knee cap.
- For **Dylan and Dean Robinson and all of Courtney Nelson's family** as they grieve, remember, and celebrate her life.
- For **Ralph and Eileen Kirby** who are recovering from breakthrough COVID-19.
- For **Mia**, Nola Lefler's granddaughter's friend, who is in a coma with liver failure.
- For **Martin Nelson**, Lois Moller's friend, recovering from serious burns.
- For **Richard Smith**, as he navigates health issues.
- For **Dennis Rainey**, who is having health problems and awaiting diagnosis.
- For **Lis McCrea-Jones**, who is recovering from knee surgery.
- For **Kathleen**, Susie Karnesky's sister, who is healing after surgery for broken vertebrae.
- For **Vanessa**, Jacque Davis' grandson's wife, who is continuing to heal and adjust to life in a wheelchair. We also pray for her husband **Tony** and son **Jack** as they all adjust together.
- For the **McCrea-Jones Family**.
- For **Joni Swartout**, recovering from recent illness.
- For **Gerald Bertram** as he continues his cancer treatments.
- For **Karen Tauscher** as she continues her cancer treatments.
- For **Avery**, Joan King's friend, who is battling cancer.
- For **Lynley**, the daughter of a childhood friend of Harriet Van Wyck.
- For **Ed Malcolm** as he manages pain in his esophagus, back, and hip.
- For **those impacted by bullying, racism, discrimination, and racist violence**, and we pray for **change in our nation**.
- For all who are sick, recovering, and grieving deaths from **COVID-19**. For those experiencing **loneliness and isolation**. For **hospitals, medical centers, and medical workers**.
- For our **church leaders** as they continue to support a safe reopening process for our church and those around our Annual Conference. For our local church leaders and our Bishop, Rev. Elaine Stanovsky.