

Moran United Methodist Church

November 28, 2021 – First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Joanne Brown, Accompanist

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

Lois Moller

Leader: We are homesick for something that we have never known.

People: We are homesick for a world where all are fed, where laughter is contagious, where the doors are wide open.

Leader: We are homesick for a world with more bridges than walls, where trees grow tall and rivers run clear.

People: We are homesick for a world where all people feel at home — in their churches, in their neighborhoods, in their homes, and in their lives.

Leader: We long for that world.

People: We hope for that world.

Leader: So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait. May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

People: We are homesick, but we are on our way. Let us worship God. Amen.

Hymn

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Joanne Brown

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of Kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
Let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

Georg Weissel; trans. by Catherine Winkworth © 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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Janice Wrhel with Crystal Natland

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
Before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in on heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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Scripture

Lois Moller

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NRSV)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever 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, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)

"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 he 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 kingdom 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 does not 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."

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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: Homesick*

Rev. Cody Natland

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 "Glory (Let There Be Peace)

One star burns in the darkness, shines with the promise: Emmanuel
 One child, born in the stillness, living within us: Emmanuel

Chorus: We're singing glory, glory
 Let there be peace, let there be peace

Singing glory, glory
 Let there be peace, let it start in me

One voice speaks for the voiceless, hope for the hopeless: Emmanuel
 One love brings us together, now and forever: Emmanuel

Chorus

Bridge: Do not be afraid, his love is strong enough to save us
 Nothing stands in the way, his love is strong enough to lead us (2x)

Chorus

Chris Stevens, Matt Mather, and Rachel Taylor Popadic © Meaux Mercy

Benediction

Rev. Cody Natland

As *this* service ends, *your* service begins: 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.*

Permission for the use of the music in this service and livestream given by CCLI. CCLI License 1507867; CCLI Streaming License CSPL155631.

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.

Additional Special Charge Conference Meeting -- Saturday, Dec. 4th at 9am on Zoom

As was shared during our Charge Conference on November 14th, we were anticipating a potential third Charge Conference meeting to select a legal designee to cast an upcoming vote in response to the Boy Scouts of America's restructuring/bankruptcy. Guidance for the vote, itself, is expected to come from PNW Conference leadership, Council of Bishops, and denominational lawyers, but our Charge Conference must designate the person who will be authorized to cast the vote. The Charge Conference meeting to address this need will be held on December 4th at 9am via Zoom.

Join by Computer/Tablet/Smartphone: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89188614133>

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

We want to make sure that each member of our church family is able to have a presence in our worship services, whether you are able to attend in person or not. While many have started attending our in-person worship services, we know that there are still many who are choosing to worship from home and join us online, or who are unable to attend in-person services. So, this Advent we want to invite every member of our church family to share a sign of their presence 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, in the Fellowship Hall, or online via live-stream.

You are invited 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. If you are not able to get to the church to drop off an ornament, 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://greaternw.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 (link will be provided when available) *prior* to our weekly sessions; those joining on Thursday mornings will watch the video clip as part of our time together.

About the study: "We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture."

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

<https://greaternw.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 **Merle and Jacque Davis**, whose son-in-law Alex passed away this past week. We pray also for Alex's wife, **Margie and all of the family.**
- For Nancy Oberst's **mother**, who had a stroke and is on hospice care. We also pray for **Nancy's dad and all of the family.**
- For **Lori Thompson**, recovering from a severe stomach virus.
- For **Ben Moller**, who had a successful back surgery on Friday 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 will have surgery for breast cancer on December 2nd.
- 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 **Maddie**, Harriet Van Wyck's granddaughter's friend, recovering from serious injuries.
- For **Lis McCrea-Jones**, who is recovering from knee surgery.
- For **Ardis Storms**, who is recovering from recent illness.
- 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.