

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 3, 2023 9:30 AM
The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

—TOGETHER WE WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD—

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

PRELUDE

“Greensleeves”

Joel Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those who are here in person, and those joining us on ZOOM. Are there any **BRIEF** announcements? Let us worship God.

CHORAL INTROIT

“A Prayer For Advent”

Williams/Nolan

Laura Currie Chancel Choir, Janet Hillenbrand - Cellist

GREETING

Celebrant: *The God of hope is with us in our meeting and in our travelling together, in our worship and our praying together, in our Advent journey through the darkness and into the Light.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The Spirit and the church cry out:

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: All who await Christ's appearance pray:

P: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: The whole creation pleads:

P: Come, Lord Jesus! Renew the whole creation!

ADVENT CAROL

"Light These Lights"

Insert

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

Liturgist: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

People: "Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:2b-3).

The first candle is lit.

Liturgist: Light one candle; see it glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How one candle shows the way
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

Together, let us pray.

Prepare your way within us, O God, as the new year of life in your Church unfolds. Make of us a people ready to receive you, to learn from you, to receive your gifts, and to live out your calling in mission. Prepare your way within us and fill us with hope, we pray, through the name of the Coming One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HYMN

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

#196

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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.**

****PASSING THE PEACE**

Celebrant: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

-WE REJOICE IN THE WORD OF GOD-

***THE FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Here ends the reading.

R  **I am the vine; you are the branches, rooted in faith and love.** 

Liturgist: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!
In the presence of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might, and come to save us!

**People: Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

L: O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**P: You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

L: You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

**P: Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!** *R*

L: You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.

**P: You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.**

L: The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;

**P: it sent out its branches to the sea,
and its shoots to the River.**

L: Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

**P: The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.** *R*

L: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see:

P: have regard for this vine, the stock which your right hand planted.

L: They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance!

**P: But let your hand be upon those of your right hand,
the ones whom you have made strong for yourself!**

L: Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name!

**P: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
let your face shine, that we may be saved! *R***

SECOND LESSON

First Corinthians 1:3-9

**Liturgist: A reading from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Church at
Corinth.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here ends the reading.

****GLORIA PATRI**

#70

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

****THE GOSPEL + Mark 13:24-37 +**

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Celebrant: This is the Word of God. All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming”

Purifoy

Laura Currie Chancel Choir, Cheryl Haskins - Flutist

- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -

SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using “sins”)

#894

Bidding: *Come Lord Jesus;*

Response: *and hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: *In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray, saying: Come Lord Jesus; and hear our prayer.*

Liturgist: O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths of hope.

Come Lord Jesus; **and hear our prayer.**

For this parish family, that we who celebrate this day in joyful hope may be transformed in Christ as children of the Light. Make known to us your plans for ministry in this place that your grace and peace may be shared in Tully and beyond into the world.

Come Lord Jesus; **and hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth your Word, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, especially Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and for the Kurdish people, that your peace and justice would come on earth.

Come Lord Jesus; **and hear our prayer.**

Creator of all that is, it is your desire that we live in harmony with the earth. As stewards you give us the responsibility to care for creation. Help us to make the hard choices we must make in order to save our earth and ourselves from calamity.

Come Lord Jesus; **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind, especially those whom we have named aloud and those we now share in the silence. (silence) Heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus; **and hear our prayer.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary; and his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and with those whom we love. Be present through us with those who do not know you, those who despise and reject you, those who deny you, that they may come to see the Light and be blessed by your grace.

Come Lord Jesus; **and hear our prayer.**

For all the departed, that as children of the resurrection, they may rejoice now in the presence of the One who is the beginning and the end; and for those who grieve, that they may find deep wells of consolation from your Holy Spirit.

Come Lord Jesus; **and hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that at the coming of your Son Jesus, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him, who taught us to pray, saying:

**“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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

- WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD -

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: God is at work in the world, renewing, remaking, resurrecting, bringing hope through the faith, the gifts, and the work of the church. We trust in God, and together we work for peace and justice through God's Spirit as we offer our tithes and gifts. Let us rejoice in our God-given opportunity to share in God's work.

****DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

#95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebrant: Thank you, God of hope, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

from Rev. Christopher Harrison, Pastor of Glendale Presbyterian Church, Glendale, CA.

*Celebrant: A voice cries out in the wilderness,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
All who are waiting, Hear!
All who hope, Listen!
The promise has been breathed into the fabric of history and
Its fulfillment is at hand:
The lonely will be comforted,
The orphan will be championed,
A light will shine in the darkness,
The lost will be searched for and will be found.
The path of salvation will be restored.*

See, O people, See the face of our Savior.

*“The Lord’s glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together;
the Lord’s mouth has commanded it.”*

*If in the depths of your spirit you are crying out, “Come thou long
expected Jesus;” This table has been laid out for you.*

*For those who sing, “born to set your people free,” and desire to be set
free;*

The table of the Lord has a place for you.

If your heart aches to be released from fear and sin,

Receive the bread of Heaven and the cup of Salvation.

Those who find their rest in Jesus Christ, are welcome here,

The feast of communion is prepared for you.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

LITURGY OF COMMUNION – THE EUCHARIST

Responses can be found in the front of the hymnal, #15

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day

when justice shall roll down like waters

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,

when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.
You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts
and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.
You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low
degree.

You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.
Your own Son came among us as a servant
to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.

He humbled himself in obedience to your will
and freely accepted death on a cross.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

**1. Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!**

**2. O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.
Amen.

WE RECEIVE THE BREAD AND CUP

The Body of Christ, broken for you. (Break the bread)
The Blood of Christ, poured out for you. (Lift the cup)
The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

(The choir will come forward first, then the congregation will follow. When you receive the bread, eat it, then move to the trays of the cup. Take it and drink, then place the empty in the basket. A self-contained gluten free choice is available – ask at the altar.)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for allowing us to share in this feast as your family and to be fed with the bread of heaven; Give us grace that we all may grow in love, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

****HYMN**

“People, Look East”

#202

1. People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

4. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“May The Light Of Christ”

Fettke

BENEDICTION

L: Go in peace to share the Hope of Christ with the world.
And the God of hope, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all, this
season and forever.

P: Amen. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Peace On Earth Piece”

Larry Shackley

****Indicates to rise if you are able**

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- Isaiah says that we are like clay and God is the potter. What new thing do you think God is molding you into?
- In what ways can we be participants with God in restoration and renewal?
- What does it mean to be enriched in Jesus Christ, in speech and knowledge?
- What are the signs of Christ's presence with us in the now? How do we see, feel and share hope?