

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

Gracious God, we have received the gifts by amazing grace. For all your gifts we give humble thanks. Now we would share some of your bounty; use these gifts to feed the hungry and to take care of the last and the least. May we use our offerings and ourselves to proclaim the good news of Advent for our own day! Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION

Pastor Jenny Lee

CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against you love,

we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(prayers in Silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14 (see insert)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER Unison

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***HYMN**

Christ for the World We Sing

UMH 568 (vs. 1 & 4)

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jenny Lee

POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:

Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

December 6th, 2020

“The Second Sunday of Advent”



The United Methodist Church

10 AM Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
December 6th, 2020
“The Second Sunday of Advent”

*This bulletin is for a Zoom Service and home service.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF ADVENT CANDLES AND WREATH

LITENING THE SECOND CANDLE

ADVENT SONG

TFWS 2090 (vs. 2)

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with You!”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

The God of peace meets us in this peaceful place,
offering pardon and comfort to those in distress.

**We are hurting people, wounded and vulnerable,
in need of forgiveness and reassurance.**

Come to this place where valleys are lifted up
and mountains and hills are made low.

**We long for some evenness and stability
amid the upheavals of our lives.**

God brings salvation to the world’s suffering ones
and calls us to be bearers of good news.

**We who are not worthy to untie Christ’s sandals
accept the challenge to prepare the way for this Advent. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211 (vs. 1& 2)

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, as your salvation draws near we long for wholeness while
clinging to our brokenness. Speak to us the Word we need for our
healing and reconciling. Send your Spirit to dwell with us and
empower our service in both familiar and unexpected places. In
Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”
4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean
countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were
baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was
clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate
locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful
than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong
of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION-SPECIAL MUSIC

Emmanuel Emanuel

Grantsburg-Central Choir

SERMON

“It is Time to Change.”

Pastor Jenny Lee

*(If you could not join our Zoom Service, one of your family members
may read the written sermon, or view the video clip on Facebook.)*

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

**O God, prepare us to hear your Word, which is forever, as we
welcome the Christ child. Ready us to receive salvation and to
rejoice in the freedom to give ourselves in service. Equip us for the
new heaven and new earth in which we may dwell in holiness and
godliness. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(If you prepare an offering, please send it to your church.)

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

Announcements (Insert) December 6th, 2020

1. Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. Let us have the renewal time of our minds, hearts and souls in Christ's promise and share and love one another.
2. As the first Sunday is Communion Sunday, please prepare the communion elements in front of you before the service starts. You may pick the communion elements up from the church, or you may prepare them yourself. (Grantsburg: Tuesday or Wednesday, St. Croix Falls: Thursday)
3. SPRC meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on December 10th via zoom.
4. An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday (December 6th) at 10 am, and here is the zoom service LINK. This link will be posted on our parish website also. The link will be changed every Sunday.

Topic: Zoom Live Sunday service, 12-6-2020

Time: Dec 6, 2020 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Click the link to Join Zoom Live Sunday Service.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83633174771?pwd=a0o2QkRkU2d6RDBIbFNDQEpT1BTQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 3317 4771

Passcode: 153843

- If you are attending the Zoom service for the first time, you may be asked to download the Zoom app. It is free, you will need it.
- If you want to join with your smart phone with video, click the link.
- If you want to dial the number without video, you may dial along with meeting ID and passcode.
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 836 3317 4771
Passcode: 153843

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83633174771#,,,,,0#,,153843#

Any questions regarding technological issues of the service, contact pastor Jenny.

5. You can also participate via **conference call (smart phone or landline)** every Sunday at 10:00 am by calling (1-888) 222-0475 and enter participant code 2938435.
6. You can hear "**the service (sermon) by phone**" whenever you are able as you call 1-715-298-0854. We will upload a new one every Sunday afternoon as we do on Facebook.
7. We need volunteers to be the liturgist every Zoom Sunday. If you are willing to be a liturgist, let Pastor Jenny know which Sunday you are available, and we welcome a special song with your family members.
8. If you miss a Zoom Live Sunday service, you may view a video clip on Facebook or use materials (mailed, emailed or on the Parish website) for a home service. You may want to send your giving (offerings) to your church. If you have any questions regarding services or offerings, please email the church office at: centralumc2016@gmail.com

You may send your giving (offering) to the church:
Atlas UMC: PO Box 254, Luck, WI 54853
Grantsburg-Central UMC: PO Box 128, Grantsburg, WI 54840
St. Croix Falls UMC: PO Box 458, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
9. This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Mikala Hammer 12/7



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.

O 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 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.

(You may hold hands, palms down, over the bread and cup which you prepared, or pre-received.)

(Together) 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 God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING (TAKING) HOLY COMMUNION

(You may take the bread and the wine with these words being exchange with your family members)

"The body of Christ, given for you

"Amen."

"The Blood of Christ, given for you."

"Amen."



December 6th, 2020.
Mark 1:1-8

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC

“It is Time to Change.”

I want to start with a funny story: I heard about this couple who moved to a new neighborhood. One morning, while they were having breakfast, the wife looked out the window and noticed that their neighbor was washing their clothes. The wife said to her husband, “I think they do not know how to wash. The clothes they washed are so dirty. I am sure they didn’t use detergent. Week after week, it was the same. She looked out the window, saw the clothes, and made the same comments about how dirty their laundry was. One morning she looked out the windows in the same way. She was surprised that their clothes were so clean. She said to her husband, “Honey! Look at them. Finally, they learned how to wash. Her husband smiled and said to her, “I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.”

Hearing about this couple, you may remember Jesus saying, “Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3). I think it is not only for their story but for all of us in some ways. Each of us has a window we look through to see the world, see people, and see things. However, sometimes we do not notice what we look at things through. The window is perhaps our mindset. Our mindset is formed unconsciously during our life by our experiences, both directly and indirectly, and perhaps we think of our mindset as the right rule like the window. The window might be the principle of our lives, which is formed by what we have learned and by our experiences. No doubt that the principle must be great when you first made it. But, my point is that it is time to clean your window again, or maybe it is time to change it.

I learned about a man who changed his own window and asked others to change it. His name is Mark, who is the author of the Gospel of Mark. Mark was not one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. But, he became an author of the Gospel of Mark, which is written at first in the New Testament. Mark was there when Jesus was arrested. You may find his story in the Gospel of Mark. Mark wrote about himself as an unnamed young man: “A certain young man was following him [Jesus], wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked” (Mark 14:51). Imagine that he went to sleep early that night and heard an unusual noise outside. He woke up about midnight because of this noise and went outside wondering what was happening. He wasn’t wearing normal clothes. The linen cloth he wore was like a bedsheet. He went out wearing a bed sheet because he was in a hurry to see what was going on out there. At the moment, when he followed the crowd, he saw that Jesus was arrested and that all disciples deserted Jesus and fled (Mark 14:50). Finally, he also ran away as naked.

Mark was a person who looked things over through his window curiously. He lived in the place Jesus offered to his disciples at the Last Supper and the First Communion, and where the Pentecost event happened. We know it was the upper room of Mark. That was his house. Mark looked over all things that happened around Jesus through the window and was never involved in it. However, he joined in the first missionary trip of the Apostle Paul as his helper (Acts 13:5). It took such a long for him to change his window. He changed his whole life from the person who used to look over the world through his own window to the person who joined in the new world. He changed his window to be Jesus. He started seeing the world through Jesus. His confession about what he saw through the new window is the Gospel of Mark.

He saw first through the new window that the good news is Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God. Even though it was written in the Prophet Isaiah a long time ago, he found it much later than five hundred years. He proclaimed the good news for all the people, especially for the poor, the weak, the powerless,

the oppressed, and the sick that Jesus Christ came to the world as a human being to serve all the people and save all the people from their sins. He says, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). He asks the people to see what he saw through his window, Jesus Christ. He says that Jesus Christ coming to us is the beginning of the good news. And he gives us the evidence of it in the Prophet Isaiah's letter: "as it is written in the prophet Isaiah, see, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'prepare the way his paths straight.'" And he introduced John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist was a person who had the new window from birth. He was very different from Mark. That's why Mark introduces John the Baptist as the evidence that Jesus Christ is the good news. John the Baptist could see the people and the world through the new window and waited for Jesus. He knew that it is time to change all people's mindsets. He came from the wilderness to prepare the way for Jesus Christ and proclaimed a baptism of repentance to forgive sins (Mark 1:3-4). At that time, nobody knew about baptism. John the Baptist was the first person who performed the baptism. He taught people that baptism is the way to prepare for receiving Jesus Christ as the Savior and the Lord. Nobody thought that the Messiah that God promised came to the world as a baby even though it is written in the Old Testament. The people saw through their windows that the Messiah would come as the King of the world. Jesus Christ indeed came as the King of the kings. But, he came to serve all people, not be served by the people. Many people could not notice that Jesus Christ was the Messiah God promised because they had their own windows. Some still do not believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior.

Well, you may say, "Pastor Jenny, I received baptism already. So do you think I am ready for the coming of Jesus Christ?" I may say, "Yes and No." The baptism you received already is only to initiate the unity of the body of Christ, and you have to grow in faith. John the Baptist says, "I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1: 8). As we learned that one baptism by water is enough in our lifelong, but the baptism by the Holy Spirit is good as much as we can receive. The Holy Spirit is the Living Spirit, who is moving on. So, I may say, it is time to prepare for the Holy Spirit by renewing our minds, hearts, and souls. And, it is time to change our mindset or renew it.

We are experiencing many changes in our lives, especially due to the COVI-19 pandemic. The biggest change is perhaps our virtual worship service. I never thought we could have worship service virtually. In Korean culture, worship service should include having mealtime together in the fellowship. So, mostly on Sunday, Korean Christians spend their time with church members in the church. Koreans build up a good relationship by having meals together. However, the pandemic blocks building good relationships if we see it through the common Koreans' windows. However, Koreans changed their windows as IT (Information Technology) is a tool for building a good relationship with people and God. How could it have happened? I do not understand it well. But they showed us to block the pandemic with IT. For them, the virtual service is, perhaps, going to be a normal rite. It is not only the Koreans' story. We also have Zoom services, drive-in services, and virtual services, even services at home and by phone or by computer. We have already changed our mindset in some ways. Do not close your windows. Let us open our windows widely and see the world. Who knows, Jesus comes through the people around us. The way we change our mindset is to open our minds, our hearts, and doors. Remember, for God is the Spirit, we can worship God everywhere and in different ways.

Let us open our minds and hearts and doors to see Jesus Christ, who comes as the King of Peace. Remember, we are the children of God. Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). As Jesus died on the cross, he destroyed all dividing walls to reconcile with God and with one another: "For he [Jesus] is our peace; in his flesh, he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:14). The peacemakers would be the people who open their windows for others. Do not close the windows again, which Jesus opened. Let us wait for the coming Jesus with peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.