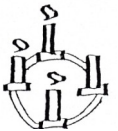


Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Old Orchard Church

See print copy for music.

Third Sunday in Advent
December 13, 2009—10:15 to 11:45 a.m.



Celebrating Messiah Jesus: Root of Jesse

And the baptism of Auden Cairng Harris

Blessed be the tender shoot
that grows from exiled Israel,
the stump cut off by the Gardener in anger.
In his wrath, God remembers mercy,
And promises his people a New Beginning.

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ—
promised by the prophets,
waited for by the faithful,
heralded by the Baptist,
sent by the Father,
born of a mother.

He is the Root of Jesse,
Incarnate Lord for the sake of the world,
that the kingdom of David
might welcome us Gentiles.

Blessed is he,
Himself made a stump in crucifixion,
But now in his resurrection
the Tree of Life,
that the whole creation might begin again.
Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia!

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

“Giving Ourselves to the Lord First: Mary and Joseph as Models”

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

An Advent Meditation

Healing is for sick people and hope is for people who experience hopelessness. It is only when you know your own brokenness and the brokenness of those around you, when the cries of the hungry reach your ears, when you know the depths of fear that nuclear holocaust strikes to the heart and experience empathetically the anguish of victims of war, when you know that we are powerless to heal ourselves—only then are you ready to hear God's word of advent in Isaiah 11.

Isaiah 11 is not for people who self-confidently believe that progress is inevitable if only we have the right amount of rational insight, technological development, economic growth and a few sessions with the psychotherapist. That kind of secular advent has not brought renewed blessing, but further curse.

No, Isaiah brings good news to people who have no such self-confidence. His word of hope is to a people who have been reduced to but a stump of their former selves. Indeed, the images of destruction, fire and war that Isaiah uses conjure up pictures not unlike the aftermath of the nuclear attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima—a once proud people and flourishing culture reduced to stubble.

But from that dried up stump a shoot springs forth, a new growth out of the old roots and it will bear fruit. A second David will arise from what appears to be a lost cause—the cut-down, fire-charred stump of Jesse. That new beginning, in God's redemptive plan for creation, is what Christians celebrate at advent because advent is a celebration of and an earnest waiting for the One who has come and is still to come—the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Advent is not a season one progresses through naturally, like winter or summer. It is a time you enter into only by faith—faith that the One who was promised here in Isaiah—the One upon whom the Spirit has rested; the One who is Filled with wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength; the One who is full of the knowledge of the Lord and simply delights in the fear of the Lord—**that One has come!! “The Word became flesh...and we beheld his glory, full of grace and truth.”**

—Brian Walsh (1984)