**Calvary United Methodist Church**

Sunday, November 29, 2020; 10:15 am

The Service of The Word

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Dee Freeman*

Call To Worship

**Come Lord Jesus, Come!**

Rip open the sky, Make planes divert their flight paths, Tell the mountains to duck, And rush into this sanctuary.

**Come Lord Jesus, Come!**

Come and silence the violence, Stop stray bullets that kill the innocent, Expose dealers who peddle addiction, Make your enemies know you and tremble in your presence.

**Come Lord Jesus, Come!**

We may fail to notice your presence In everyday living, In casual conversations, Or in blessings disguised as “coincidences.” Still we cry …

**Come Lord Jesus, Come!**

Invocation of the Spirit

First Testament 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.” (Isaiah 64:1–9, NRSV)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

**The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down … To make your name known … so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.**

We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

Declaration of Praises

Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Prayer Time

Scripture Lesson 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 his 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.”” (Mark 13:24–37, NRSV)

Sermon *Alan Johnson  
Company’s Coming: This Place is a Mess!*

Closing Hymn  *O Come O Come Emmanuel (v 1-3)*

See the next page for the lyrics.

Benediction

Postlude *Dee Freeman*