

COMFORT IN THE WILDERNESS

...let earth receive her King

ADVENT 2020



December 13, 2020

Welcome

Senior Pastor, Doug Kelly

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Light the Joy Candle throughout Seattle and the World

Samantha Pak, Mike Kim, Sunah & Jake Pak Kim

We come before you, God, hearts full
and in need of your divine love
that holds us close
like a good hug
on a bad day

Though we may find it hard to love
the unkind, ungrateful, and unhappy
the demanding, deceitful, and spiteful
Though we may count ourselves
among the hard-to-love, we come

We come *because* we cannot earn your love
believing in a love that makes us worthy of it
a love that doesn't keep score or expect a return
love as unconditional as your joy
Lord, help our unbelief

We come to you, God, and only you
for perfect friendship
in which we are known so intimately
accepted so thoroughly and welcomed so heartily
that sometimes your graciousness rubs off on us

We are God's people
We light this candle
as a sign of the love of God
who comes to us as shared laughter
and makes a home among us

O come, Immanuel

Hymn *My Soul In Stillness Waits* #89

Katie Stats

*For You, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits
Truly my hope is in You*

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory
Your radiance shines in all who look to You
Come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow (*Chorus*)

Come, let us bow before the God who made us
Let every heart be opened to the Lord
For we are all the people of God's hand (*Chorus*)

Silent Listening

Worship Leader, Kim Selby

Scripture Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;
⁶ but you shall be called priests of the LORD,
you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.
⁷ Because their shame was double,
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.
⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Hymn *O Lord How Shall I Meet You* #104

Katie Stats

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best
Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race
You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still
In patient expectation we live for that great day
When your renewed creation your glory shall display

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Kim Selby

Children's Message

Kristin Wilhite

Song *Love Has Come* #110

Katie Stats

Love has come: a light in the darkness
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it
Hear how their song of joy arises
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior
Love! Love! Glory to God on high
Love has come and never will leave us
Love is life everlasting and free
Love is Jesus within and among us
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Sermon *Love Comes, Freedom Arrives*

Danielle Merseles

Our Response to God's Great Love ([click here if you would like to give your offering online](#))

Kim Selby

Leader: You have given all to me
People: **To you, Lord, I return it**
Leader: Everything is Yours
People: **Do with it what You will**
Leader: Give me only Your love and Your grace
People: **That is enough for me**

Our Prayers to God

Doug Kelly

Hymn *Light Dawns on a Weary World* #79

Katie Stats

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom
Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes (*Chorus*)
Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes (*Chorus*)

Benediction

Danielle Merseles

Closing Song *Go Now in Peace*

Katie Stats

Go now in peace, go now in peace; may the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go (*Repeat*)

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Preaching today is Danielle Merseles. Danielle is the Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults here at Bethany and is obsessed with Christmas.

Leading worship today is Kim Selby. Kim and her husband, Ryan, have been worshipping at Bethany (or from North Seattle) for over 20 years. She works as an Urban Planner, reads a ton of historical fiction and encourages their teens through hybrid high school. Lately, Kim has been busy encouraging Kate (17) through calculus and college applications and partnering with Jonathan (14) in living room PE exercises, while both dogs "help."

Ministers: You, who are touched by God's grace, being healed by God's love.