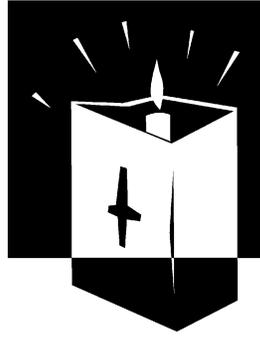


*The Holy Spirit  
gathers us in unity on the  
first day of the week.*

*Composer, organist and teacher Charles Callahan (b. 1951) has taught at Catholic University, Middlebury College, Baylor University, Rollins College and the Bermuda School of Music. He has served as organist and music director for churches in Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., New York, Vermont and his native Massachusetts. Dr. Callahan performed here at Central at an event in the 1990s.*

*The text of this hymn by Mary Louise Bringle which included in All Creation Sings, the ELCA's new worship supplement, serves as the theme for our Advent worship.*



# HOLY COMMUNION

*Advent 1  
Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles*

Sunday, November 28, 2021  
10:30 a.m. Eucharist

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*Exploring the promise of God for all*

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## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

Advent Prelude on the Gregorian Hymns

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" "Creator of the Stars"

Charles Callahan

*(Please stand at the sound of the bell)*

### OPENING DIALOGUE

**P** Now the heavens whisper, the veil grows dim.

**AI** Hearts grow soft to welcome him.

**P** Earth awakens from slumber, listening to the stirring within.

**AI** Hearts grow warm to welcome him.

**P** Deeply planted seed of promise springs forth from Jesse's stem.

**AI** Teach our hearts to welcome him.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**AI** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

We search for you, O Lord, and you gather us together from far and wide.  
Bless this never-ending circle as we gather under its reminder of your promises. We pray this in all your holy names,

**AI** Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

### CHORAL RESPONSE

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

*Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.*

*Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within;*

*Seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem!*

*Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

## WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

*God speaks to us in  
scripture reading,  
preaching, and song.*



## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Today's narrative reading is from the book of Jeremiah:

<sup>1</sup>These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup>Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup>Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup>But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. <sup>8</sup>For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, <sup>9</sup>for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

<sup>10</sup>For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup>Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup>I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Word of God. Word of life.

**AD** Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand)*

## ALLELUIA VERSE

*All sing:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Choir: Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.  
*(All repeat "Alleluia")*

## GOSPEL READING

John 14:25-31

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**AD** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>25</sup>I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let

your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. <sup>30</sup>I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; <sup>31</sup>but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**A** Praise to you, O Christ.

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

*Paul Bunjes (1914-1998) studied at Valparaiso University, the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and the Eastman School of Music. A deep interest in the polyphonic works of the Reformation era led him to research and edit the works of 16th century German composer Georg Rhau. From 1961 to 1977 Bunjes served as chair of the music department at Concordia-River Forest. He was also instrumental in expanding Concordia Publishing House's music division. This numbered setting of "Comfort, Comfort" is among his personal favorites.*

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Genevan Psalter, arr. Paul Bunjes,  
J. S. Bach

*Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over.*

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near;  
Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.  
- Johann Olearius (1671), tr. Catherine Winkworth.*

*(Please stand)*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**A** As we wait and watch, let us pray for the church, the world, and all God's creation.

*(We offer our prayers using a sung response)*

To you all hearts are o - pen, to  
you all de - sires known. To you there are no  
se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you.

*Last time*

*Each petition concludes:  
(Sung Response)*

- P** Into your hands gracious God we commend all for whom we pray, trusting  
in your promise to hear our prayers.
- A** **Amen.**

## MEAL

### PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.
- A** **And also with you.**

*(Please remain standing)*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- A** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- A** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- A** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- P** Faithful and hidden Lord, when your people were in exile. . .  
. . . Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever,
- A** **Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**
- Give us today our daily bread.**
- Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**
- Save us from the time of trial**  
**and deliver us from evil.**
- For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours,**  
**now and forever. Amen.**

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

"Aria"

Charles Callahan

*(Please stand)*



*God feeds us with the  
presence of Jesus Christ.*

*God blesses us and sends  
us in mission to the world.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Let us pray.  
Most High God,  
you have come among us at this table.  
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
- All** Amen.

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

- P** The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
- All** Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

*Hymn 239*

*Stanza 1 – all, in unison;  
2 & 3 – all, in harmony;  
4 – all, in unison*

### DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace, serve the Lord.  
**All** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

"Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

arr. Aaron Shows

*A student of Harald Rohlig, Ann  
Labounsky and Steven Cooksey, composer  
Aaron Shows (b. 1989) is organist at First  
United Methodist Church (Pasadena, CA)  
and on the music faculty of Glendale  
Community College. In addition to his  
work at the church and school, his  
improvisation posts are popular on  
YouTube and Instagram. This postlude is  
from a collection published by Augsburg  
Fortress.*

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## SERVING TODAY

Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>preaching</i>
Jack Friesen	<i>assisting minister</i>
Steve Langmo	<i>reading</i>
Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio,	
Isaac Drewes	<i>organists</i>
Ian Snyder	<i>violinist</i>
Kristina Rodel Sorum, Robin Helgen,	
Bill Pederson, David Gindra	<i>quartet</i>
Central Choir	<i>musicians</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>sound operator</i>
Richard Stegall, Diane Olson,	
Bill Masche	<i>sacristans</i>
	<i>usher ministry team</i>

*This service is being streamed live on the internet at [www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org).*

*Chancel flowers this weekend are given by the Floral Guild. If you wish to donate flowers, contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.*



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