



Homesick

First Sunday of Advent

November 28th, 2021

Prelude

Welcoming

Call to Worship – Wherever You Are

A Sanctified Art Video Presentation

Candle lighting liturgy

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

We are homesick for a just world,

For peace like rivers,

For the end of suffering.

Yes, we are homesick –

For joy that is contagious,

For nations that feel like neighbours,

And for hospitals that run empty.

We are homesick for the world God promises.

We are homesick, but we are on our way.

God is here. God is still creating.

Let us worship Holy God.

We hope for a world where all are fed.

We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.

We hope for a world with wide open doors.

We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

We hope for a world where trees grow tall
and creeks run clean.

We hope for a world where all people feel at home

- in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.

We hope for that world.

We long for that world.

So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts
alive as we wait.

May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.

Opening Hymn: In You there is a Refuge (More Voices 84)

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Music © 2005 Borealis Music, www.LinneaGood.com Used by permission.

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- 1 In you there is a refuge,
in you we find our peace.
When all we know is chaos
may our trust in you increase.
In you there is a silence,
in you our minds are clear.
When all we hear is discord
may your quiet draw us near.

- 2 In you there is a vision,
in you we learn to dream.
When all we see is desert
may you be our living stream.
In you there is a future,
in you we find our way.
When hope has shed its brightness
may you show us a new day.

Scripture Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Reflection "Homesick"

Hymn: People Look East (Voices United 9, vs 1, 4 & 5)

Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1928

Music: French folk melody, harm. Martin Fallas Shaw 1928

Words © David Higham Associates

Harmony © Oxford University Press 1928

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1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

Prayer

God of the weary and waiting,
Scripture tells that where two or more are gathered,
you are there.
So we trust that you are here – listening to these words, drawing us
close, stirring hope awake in us.
And for that we are grateful. We are so grateful.
Today, Holy God, we feel close to home, close to you when...
When we can gather together in the church building,

When we can be your beloved community online,
When the hymns are sung,
When the candles are lit,
When someone knows our name.
We feel close to home when our children are curious,
When we find moments of true connection,
When we are brave enough to be who you call us to be.

However, God, even with gratitude for our close-to-home moments,
we also recognize that buried deep within us we have homesick
hearts.

Holy God, we are homesick for...
Your beloved community gathered together
as one body,
We are homesick for a world we have not seen.
We are homesick for a world where oceans are clean, trees are green,
and animals are not endangered.
We are homesick for a life where days feel expansive
and Sabbath feels possible.
We are homesick for days when mental health
is not stigmatized,
time is not a commodity, and self-worth is not a scarcity.

God who never leaves us alone, we are carrying both hope and
homesickness all at the same time.
Hold these two side of the same coin tenderly,
and fan the flame of both.
For we realize, hope is a gift and homesickness is a reminder. For each
conviction, we give you thanks.

Now with the confidence of children, we pray together saying...

Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Voices United 2)

Words: Charles Wesley 1744

Music Psalmodia Sacra 1715

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- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Benediction

As you leave this service, your service begins:

Comfort the homesick.

Open doors to others.

Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed

– so come back soon.

In the name of our Foundation – God, Spirit, and Son –

Go in peace.

Postlude

Worship Leadership – Nancy Walker, Bill Cantelon

Music Leadership – James Yi

Vocalists – Margaret Bates, Blyth Hughes

Welcoming and Scripture Reading – Stephen Godfrey

Welcoming Team – Orma Paton, Elaine Zandee

Technical Support – Sam Boehner, Karen Clark,

Sasha Enns, Peter Gray, Ron Norman

Flowers for the Service are offered by Ken and Sue Christensen in
celebration of the life of Sue's father, Don Collins.