Crossroads UMC Worship
11-28-2021

Prelude **Carly Ochoa**

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship
L: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?
P: We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.
L: Yes, we are homesick—
P: for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.
L: We are homesick for the world God promises.
P: We are homesick, but we are on our way.
L: God is here. God is still creating.
P: Let us worship Holy God.

Candle Lighting for First Sunday of Advent

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*
Gracious God, We find ourselves with two options every day— to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance
One Voice: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:
ALL: There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Praise **O Come O Come Emmanuel**

Gospel Lesson **Luke 21:25-36**

"There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near."

Jesus told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

"Take care that your hearts aren't dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One."

Sermon **Homesick**

Sermon Series **Close To Home**

Pastor Scott Walters

Praise **To Know You More**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

(Prayers are adapted with permission from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

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