

**Second Sunday of Advent
Ephraim Moravian Church - Ephraim, WI
December 6, 2020**

Welcome & Announcements

“Anytime, I am There” - by William Finn

Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent

The Mittermann Family

Hymn #280

Immanuel, to You We Sing

Immanuel, to you we sing, O Prince of life, almighty King
That you, expected ages past, did come to visit us at last.

For you, since first the world was made, all hearts have waited, watched and prayed
Prophets and patriarchs, year by year, have longed to see your light appear.

All glory, worship, thanks and praise, that you have come in these our days
O heavenly guest, expected long, we hail you with a joyful song.

Reflection

“Mary, Did You Know” - by Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

Prayers of the Church

Congregational Sung Response (To the tune: Away in a Manger)

*Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels; Come, Lord reign alone.
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne. Amen*

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40: 1 – 11; Mark 1: 1 – 8

“You Raise Me Up” - by Graham & Lovland

Sermon

“Nun Danket Alle Gott” (“Now Thank We All Our God”) - by Karg-Elert

Benediction

Reflection by Kathleen Harris

“Fear is the thing that paralyzes,” writes Nigerian-born, third-culture kid Kovie Biakolo, “while bravery is the thing that frees.” She says bravery requires endurance and courage, and to be authentic it also requires love. While there are different kinds of bravery, brave people willingly “risk the possibility of a terrifying ending.” Brave people “live in such a way that the world knows you are afraid but you love, more than you fear.”
<https://thoughtcatalog.com/kovie-biakolo/2015/12/what-it-really-means-to-be-brave>

John the Baptist was brave. He lifted his voice with a shout (Isaiah 40:9) preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4). He may have been an oddball, but his words were grounded in the enduring word of God and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Ordinary people like us can be brave, too. Recently, while sorting through my mother’s things, I found a small card titled “A Prayer for Courage”. The card has multiple thumb tack holes so I think she pinned it on various bulletin boards near the different desks she used while working at Kraft. Mom returned to secretarial work following the sudden death of my father at age fifty.

God make me brave for life, Oh braver than this!
Let me strengthen after pain
As a tree strengthens after the rain, shining and lovely again.
God make me brave for life, much braver than this!
As the blown grass lifts, let me rise from sorrow with quiet eyes
Knowing Thy way is wise.
God make me brave – Life brings such blinding things!
Help me to keep my sight, help me to see aright,
That out of dark – comes light.
by Grace Noll Cromwell

The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe, Pastor Mr. Colin Welford, Music Director
Musical Guests....., Ms. Allie Babich, Ms. Cana Mittermann, Mr. Hal Halvorsen



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