



Sunday, November 29 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent

Advent coincides with the longest stretches of darkness we experience in the entire year (at least for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere!) The days grow shorter and shorter during the month of December, lengthening again only three days before we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Light of the world. For many, this shrinking window of daylight can feel like a shrinking window of the Light – especially this year, so full of anxiety and uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, political upheaval, and more. Advent this year gives us all the more reason to Watch for the Light – keeping vigilant in

seeking out and ushering in the glimpses of the Light of Christ that is coming into the world. Share with the whole community of faith in listening to God's Word, sharing stories and testifying to the Light, and bringing the Light of Christ into our homes and our lives this season.

Prelude: *from Partita on "Wachet auf"* (ELW #436)
I. Prelude, "Wake, awake, for night is flying"
II. Pastorale, "Zion hears the watchmen singing"

Wayne L. Wold

Gathering Words and Welcome

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

If possible, prepare your worship space with your Advent log or wreath with four candles (one for each week of the season) and a bowl of water. The presence of water reminds us of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism. During this time of continued physical distancing, we cling with confident hope to the promise that by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness:

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all time,
we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Children of God, in † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

Giving thanks that we become brothers and sisters in Christ through the gift of baptism, we share God's peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Gathering Hymn :	<i>People, Look East</i>	#248
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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.*

*2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*3 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.*

*4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

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Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Children's Moment

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Light one of your Advent candles today to mark the first week of Advent.

God of all creation, you call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Make us watchful as we light the first candle. Make us ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Offering of Music:

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW 244

(Julia Finkbeiner, Cello; Olivia Finkbeiner, Horn; Annette Finkbeiner, Flute)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴O Lord GOD of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

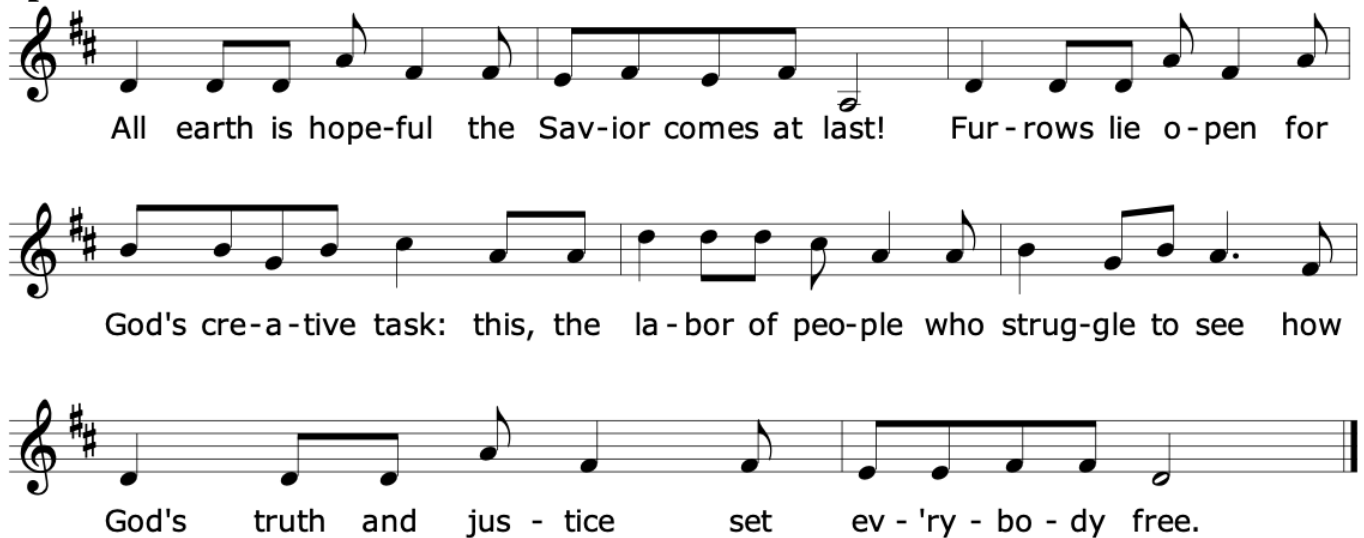
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



All earth is hope-ful the Sav-ior comes at last! Fur-rows lie o-pen for
God's cre-a-tive task: this, the la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bo-dy free.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

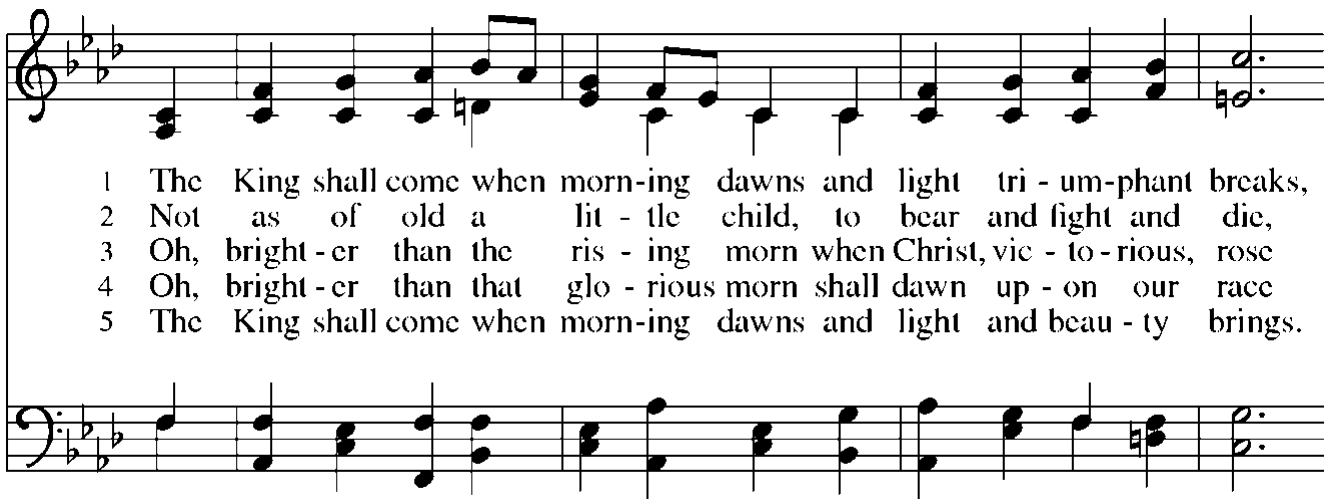
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

The King Shall Come

#260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes,
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
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The Nicene Creed:

As we wait for Christ's coming, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Offering

Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues. Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.



If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.

Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music:

Prepare the Royal Highway

arranged by James H. Laster

(Chancel Choir, Directed by Jim Jefferis)

Offertory:	<i>Accept O Lord the Gifts We Bring</i>	#691
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Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble. We
Our hopes and dreams, our foils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord,
do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're ab - le
by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Savior of the nations come,
make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives witness to your light. Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.

Though physically distant, you call us into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

All powerful God, you created the heavens and the earth, you created the plants and the animals, and you created us in the same wonderous diversity that exists in all your other creations. Why can we not accept this? Help us to truly love our neighbors as ourselves. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Dear Lord, it's hard to make sense of this pandemic. Why is this happening, why must so many people suffer? Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Lord we ask for your healing spirit upon those in need. We pray for:

We pray for those whose thanks or needs are known to us.

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Paul (family friend of Mary) who died on 11/21

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Danielle who has been diagnosed with melanoma and will begin treatment on 11/30
- Rose (niece of Toni)
- Jim (father of Hans) whose cancer has stopped responding to chemotherapy
- Wayne (father-in-law of Mary) recently hospitalized with sepsis and now receiving daily treatment.
- Glen recovering from anticipated surgery on 11/24, followed by cancer treatment
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers
 - Brian
 - Sydney
 - Sara
 - Jean (mother of Mary's friend Linda)
 - Malinda (sister of Kathy)
 - Willis (brother-in-law of Kathy)

We ask all of our prayers for those we mention aloud and in our silent hearts. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Dear God, we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem: Curtis & Kathleen (Alex), Anna, David & Sandy, Linda, James & Kathy, Jason & Sarah (Quinn & Logan). We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear is, O God,
Your mercy is great.

God, in your deep compassion, receive these prayers we offer to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

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

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Benediction:

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:	<i>Fling Wide the Door</i>	#259
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(music on the following page)

Go in peace. Watch for the Light!

Thanks be to God.

Narthex Chats with Pastor Hoffman & Bethany Trippi

Announcements – watch for slides during the Postlude

Postlude: *from* Partita on “Wachet auf” (ELW #436)
III. Finale, “Now, let all the heav’ns adore you”

Wayne L. Wold

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Calendar for week of November 29 – December 6

(Updated on 11/20/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream

Worship

11:00 am Zoom* Coffee (NOTE

THE NEW TIME) with a

Pastor & Bethany Trippi

([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)

6:30 pm Livestream Tree Lighting

Stay home & stay safe, watch the

lighting on Facebook or the BLC

website

7:30 pm Zoom* LYO

([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, November 30

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir

([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)

6:30 pm BSA Troop 208

7:00 pm Zoom* GFL

Confirmation

([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, December 1

4:30 pm Zoom* Education

Planning Meeting

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

Wednesday, December 2

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study

([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)

1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch

([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)

6:30 pm Chancel Bells

7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir

Rehearsal

([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, December 3

10:00 am Zoom* CMT

([Join](#) or use ID 825 5536 5823)

6:30 pm Zoom* BLC Officers

Meeting

Friday, December 4

Pastor's Sabbath

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal

3:00 pm Dulcimer Group

Rehearsal

Saturday, December 5

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream

Worship followed by Holy

Communion – the sanctuary

will be open for people to

receive communion until 11 am

11:00 am Zoom* Coffee with a

Pastor & Colleen Sousa

([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)

7:30 pm Zoom* LYO

([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

***To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

***Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

Old Problems and New Beginnings

By now the last of the leaves have likely fallen from trees in northern climes, and any still holding on look dry and dead. Snow has arrived, and its thick blanket shows the stains of city filth and grime, reminding us of the waste we are pouring over the land and into the water. This is the season we begin a new year in the life of the church and, as with our worship, we begin with a confession of our participation in the world's suffering.

Heavy hearts and burdened consciences will relate to Isaiah's confession, "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Isa. 64:6). Then, just as the cold nights in the northern hemisphere reach their longest, Mark addresses us with promises that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man will include the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars. Hold on, there is hope!

The promise of Advent is that God is always at work in the world, bringing new beginnings and a new creation to people and powers long bent on destruction. Yet, because we live in the generation that exists between the "already" of Christ's resurrection and the "not yet" of God's full restoration of the creation, we cannot know when that final day will arrive. Instead of becoming preoccupied with the end times, we are counseled to live our lives in a state of preparedness—trusting that our home is God's home and that God is coming once again to dwell with us. That trust is the strength that sustains us as we "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7).

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