

Worship Service - "Baby Maybes"

Guest Preacher: Dan Stern

3rd December, 2023 - 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

Isaiah 64:1-9 NRSV and Mark 13:24-37 NRSV

Prelude Annie Center

Opening Music (video) [**Brightest and Best**](#)

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Welcome / Announcements

Pass the Peace Annie Center

Opening Hymn ***What Is This Place - 1***

Call to Worship - Seeking Light

One: In this season of waiting, of longing, of looking for you to come into our
World. We are seeking light In our own lives

All: We are seeking light

One: In our neighborhoods

All: We are seeking light

One: In our families

All: We are seeking light

One: In our work

All: We are seeking light

One: In Grace

All: We are seeking light

One: In our nation

All: We are seeking light

One: In our world

All: We are seeking light

One: Seek and you shall find Knock and the door will be opened. Ask and it
will be given to you

**All: Jesus Christ you are the light of the world May we have eyes to see you
And ears to hear you Come into our world today. Amen**

Invocation

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming, We wait filled with hope, Knowing your light will shine in the darkness. We wait anticipating your peace, Believing that one day it will fill our world. We wait embracing your love, May we reach out to share it with our neighbors. We wait with joy, Bubbling us in expectation of your birth. Lord we wait, Come soon and fill us with your life.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 NRSV

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

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.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

A Time of Prayer

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

We seek the mighty God in the most unlikely places as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb. May God hear these prayers, which come from the unlikely corners of our lives.

Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus - 178

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37 NRSV

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory.

Then 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.

‘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.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It 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.

Therefore, 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,

or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Message *Baby Maybes* Dan Stern

Call to Serve

Creator of the world, you are the potter, we are the clay,
and you form us in your image.
Shape our spirits by Christ's transforming power,
that as one people we may live out your compassion and justice,
whole and sound in the realm of your peace. Amen.

A Time for Reflection - Annie Center

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks and praise always, O God,
for your love surpasses all and your will is ever good.
Like a potter at the wheel you created every part of us,
shaping us in secret in the hidden depths.
You read our inmost thoughts and desires and keep your hand upon us,
reshaping us as seems good to you
whenever we allow ourselves to become misshapen
through our allegiance to those who do not walk in your ways
or by the acts of our own will.
Praise be to your name for your continuous mercy and grace.

Hymn *Have Thine Own Way - 504*

Benediction

Lord God, who creates all things for a reason,
shape us like clay to your purpose, tell us our true names.
Fire us with the Holy Spirit, in darkness
and in light.
Guide us to the people and places that can work your will in us.
For we are ready, Lord, to be made your servants and your disciples
in Christ's name. Amen

Postlude - Annie Center