1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

Greeting and Announcements **Opening Sentences**

***Doxology** - all to sing No. 592

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Praise**

***Advent Song of Praise** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1) No. 9

O come, O come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

***Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Leader: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope.

People: Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. He is the one appointed by God to be judge of all things. He is the one through whom God has promised to save and redeem his people.

Leader: We light this candle today to remind us that he is our hope and the hope of the world. We thank God for the promises he has made to us and for the light he has brought into the world.

People: O God of Hope, Emmanuel, God with Us -- we pray you to send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's final appearing. Live in us and help us to live in you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, transform us so that our worship, our celebration, our time of preparation, may be pleasing unto you - both now - and forevermore. Amen. Let us light the candle in hope.

The Candle of Hope is lit.

***Carol of Praise** "A Candle Is Burning"
(sing to tune of "Away in a Manger" No. 25)

A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

***Opening Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

***Call to Confession**

Leader: We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating: from fear that blocks the way of love, from worry that blocks the way of joy, from isolation that blocks the way of relationship, from structural injustices that keep the world bound. Forgive us, O God of hosts, until the stars fall from heaven and we live as people transformed.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. This is good news!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***Response of Praise**-all to sing "Angels We Have Heard On High" (refrain) No. 23

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***We Share God's Peace**

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

(You are invited to share God's peace as you greet those around you.)

Special Music

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

Hymn (seated) "Jesus Loves Me" No. 304

Jesus loves me! This I know. For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children's Message

(Children grades K-6 may be dismissed to Sunday School)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)

Sermon **"On the Watch"** The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
when fire kindles

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People…The Lord's Prayer ('debts' and debtors')

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

(We invite you to remain seated through the Postlude.)

***Indicates that those who are able may stand.**

Lectionary readings for December 6, 2026

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8