

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

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: In this season so many voices wish to claim our attention, our time, and our dollars. At this font one Voice claims our whole lives: soul, body, heart, and mind. In humility let us confess our faults to the Voice who proclaims our forgiveness.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you, the Son of Man, in whose name we pray.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: As sure as the fig tree blossoms, so sure is the salvation of God, poured out for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. Believe the 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!

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*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.)

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving
Words of Institution**

Special Music

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading [Jeremiah 33:14–16](#) (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-8 may be dismissed to Sunday School)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading [1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#) (NRSV)

Sermon
"Night and Day"
direct our way
The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

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 8, 2024

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6