

Welcome

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Lighting of the First Advent Candle: HOPE

Reader: Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Advent means “coming,” and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. We light the candle on the Advent wreath to remind us of the blessings that Christ brings to the world.

Reader: The Advent wreath includes many symbols. The wreath is in the circle, with no beginning and no ending. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no ending to God, and that God’s love and caring for us never ends. The green branches are a sign of ever new life. The candles tell us of the light shining into the world with Jesus Christ. The colors of the Advent candles remind us of our need for God’s help to be the people we should be. The white candle, which we light on Christmas Eve, signifies the birth of Jesus.

Reader: Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope. *(Light the first candle.)*

Reader: The prophet Jeremiah spoke words of hope to Israel. He talked about the promise of Shalom and of a new beginning. We hope and pray for a world of peace and harmony.

Reader: Hope is like a flame that warms and comforts us. As we light this candle, we celebrate the hope of the prophets and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Congregation: We continue to hope in God’s promise that Christ will continue to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace.

Let us Pray Together:

Thank you, God for the flame of hope. As we prepare for Christ’s coming, help us to share our hope with others. In Jesus Name. Amen

Hymn: *“O come O come Immanuel”* MBW Page 274 verse 1

**O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

Watchword For The Week: Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away. Luke 21:33

(Please Stand if able.)

Gathering Hymn: *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*

MBW Page 256

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear: the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approach-es with al-le-lu-ias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

Our hope and expectations, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we look, O Lord, to you for all the earth's redemption, creation made anew.

Liturgy: Advent

MBW Page 49

(Please remain Standing)

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, all the earth! The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Rejoice greatly, shout for joy! See, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation.

Hymn:

ST. THEODULPH

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater son!
Hail in the time appointed his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

We praise you, the Lord God of Israel! You came to the help of your people and have set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of your servant David.

You promised through your holy prophets long ago that you would save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us.

You have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and have remembered your holy covenant.

With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham, you promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve you without fear,

So that we might be holy and righteous before you all the days of our life.

By your tender mercy you cause the bright dawn of Salvation to rise on us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The voice of the messenger echoes from the desert, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and to make a straight path on which he may come. Let us confess our sins, so that our crooked ways will be made straight and the rough ways smooth.

(Sitting)

Please Join me:

Gracious Lord Jesus, you come to us with the good news of salvation, but too often we fail to notice. You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts when it seems convenient to do things our own way. We ignore your presence and your leadership. We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Forgive us, merciful Lord. May we live so that the world will know that you have come. Amen.

Through John the Baptizer, we hear the Lord's promise: turn away from your sins, and God will forgive you your sins.

Hymn:

TRURO

(Voice): Lift up your heads, you mighty gates, behold the King of Glory waits; the King of Kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

(ALL): Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

(ALL): So, come, my Sov-'reign, enter in; let new and nobler life begin; the Holy Spirit guide us on, until our glorious goal is won.

Eternal God, Ruler of all ages, graciously you come to us in order that we might come to you, through the merit of Jesus Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Help us and all your children to respond to the call of your gospel with faith, love, and hope.

God of faith, you created humanity to serve and praise you, and even when we rebelled against you, you promised to send a Savior to redeem us from our sins:

Strengthen our faith in your saving work through Christ. As you chose the people of Israel to hear the promise of redemption through the prophets, may people today believe in your good will for all that you have made.

God of love, you fulfilled your promise of a redeemer in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Grant us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may share your love with the sick and the afflicted, with the poor and homeless, with the victims of injustice and discrimination, and with all who are experiencing times of trouble.

God of hope, you comfort us through your Savior's promise to return in glory at the end of time:

As we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us not despair. We long for you to inspire all the nations and peoples of the world to turn to cooperation and nurture, rather than to hatred and destruction.

God of faith, love, and hope, to you and to you alone we pray:

For you are our God, the only God, forever and ever. Amen.

(Standing, as able, the Hosanna is divided in two parts and sung antiphonally.) MBW Page 239

First Part: Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!

Second Part:Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes,

First Part:.....Hosanna!

Second Part: Hosanna!

First Part: Hosanna!

Second Part: Hosanna!

First Part: Blessed is he that comes

Second Part:Blessed is he that comes

First Part: he that comes in the name of the Lord!

Second Part:he that comes in the name of the Lord!

First Part: Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!

First Part:Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!

First Part: Hosanna!

Second Part:Hosanna!

First Part: Hosanna!

Second Part: Hosanna!

First Part: Hosanna

Second Part: Hosanna in the high-__est

First:in the high----est!

(Repeat from Beginning)

First Part: Hosanna!

Second Part: Hosanna!

First Part: Hosanna!

Second Part:Hosanna in the high-est!

ALL:Hosanna in the high----est!!

Lord, you have kept the promise you made to our ancestors, and have come to the help of your servant people.

You remembered to show mercy to Abraham and Sarah and to all their descendants forever!

We praise you, Lord. You are enthroned in glory, yet you came and continue to come for all who will receive you. We praise you, for you are good, and your mercy endures forever.

To you be glory and power, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn:

REGENT SQUARE

**Praise to you, O Lord, we render for your love in Jesus shown;
may that love, so strong and tender, bind us fast to him alone;
now and ever, now and ever, gather us among your own.**

(Sitting)

Offering Our Gifts to God

Doxology:

"For the Life That You Have Given"

MBW Page 819

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

Prayer of Blessing: Great Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that Advent is the season for us to reflect upon your Second Coming. We anxiously wait for that day and pledge our continued commitment and service until then. The tithes and offerings that we give are evidence of our pledge to serve you. Therefore we ask you to bless these offerings and guide its use to bring glory to your holy name. Amen

God's Word for Today:

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Pew Bible Page 831

2nd Reading: 1 st Thessalonians 3:9-13 (responsive)

Pew Bible Page 1238

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? **10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.** 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. **12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.** 13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

The Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Pew Bible Page 1102

The Message: **Stand Up and Raise your Head!**

Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant

Hymn of Response and Preparation for Holy Communion:

"My Faith Looks Trustingly"

MBW Page 705

**My faith looks trustingly to Christ of Calvary, my Savior true! Lord, hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
strengthen in ev'ry way my love for you!**

**May your rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; as you have died for me, my love, adoringly,
pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire.**

**While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, O, be my guide; make darkness turn to day, wipe
sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from you aside.**

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream rolls over me, blessed Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, redeemed and free!

Holy Communion: In Celebration of Christ's Coming

MBW Page 183

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, be with us all. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

(Standing, the congregation gives a nod or a wave signifying oneness and Christ and the desire to be at peace with one another.)

Hymn:

Worship

We covenant with hand and heart to follow Christ Our Lord; with world, and sin, and self to part, and to obey his word; to love each other heartily, and truth and with sincerity, and under cross, reproach, and shame to glorify his name.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

(Sitting, As the bread is served, the communicants stand to receive it.)

Hymn:

PICARDY MBW Page 184

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand, ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descended our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture in the body and the blood he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Hymn:

SWABIA MBW Page 185

The advent of our God shall be our theme for prayer come, let us meet him on the road and place for him prepare.

The everlasting Son incarnate stoops to be, takes on himself the servant's form to set his people free.

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

Hymn:

DARWALL MBW Page 185

Lo, God, our God, has come; to us a Child is born, to us a Son is giv'n; bless the blessed morn! O happy, lowly, lofty birth! Now, God, our God, has come to earth.

Rejoice! Our God has come, in love and lowliness; the Son of God has come God's children all to bless; God with

us now descends to dwell, God in our flesh, Immanuel.

We praise the Word made flesh; rue God, true man is he; we praise the Christ of God; to whom all glory be! We praise the Lamb that once was slain! We praise the King that comes to reign!

(When the bread has been served the communicants stand.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. (All partake together.)

Silent Prayer

By your divine presence, By the holy sacraments, By all the merits of your life, sufferings, death, and resurrection,

Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God. Amen.

In the same way, after supper our Lord Jesus Christ took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

(Sitting, As the cup is served, The communicants stand to receive it.)

Hymn:

NICOLAI MBW Page 188

O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light a - glow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's son our Lord and master, you have won our hearts to serve you on__-ly! Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in bless__ing! Rule and might o'er all possessing! Come heav'n-ly bridegroom, light divine, and deep within our hearts now shine; there light a flame undy__ing! In your one body let us be as living branches of a tree, your life our lives sup-ply__ing. Now, though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us and distress__ us, yet with heav'n-ly joy you bless us. Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above a ray of purest plea__sure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heav'n-ly food. You are the dearest trea__sure! Let your mercy warm and cheer us! O, draw near us! For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

Hymn:

DIX MBW Page 190

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we ever more be led to thee. As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you our heav'nly King.

Hymn:

OMNI DIE MBW Page 190

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured, for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord. By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored, by your call to heav'n above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

(When the cup has been served, the communicants stand.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Drink from this, all of you. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. (All partake together.)

Silent Prayer

Christ, the Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace. Amen.

Hymn

HYMN TO JOY MBW Page 193

Brothers, sisters, join in praising Christ, the Son, Incarnate Word; join with hearts and voices raising, songs of thanks to Christ, our Lord. God made flesh, who dwelt among us giving bread and wine as sign, grant that now your love may, through us, in a world if darkness shine.

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death.
Until he comes.

(The congregation gives a nod or a wave of Fellowship, signifying renewed dedication and unity of purpose in the service of Christ.)

Hymn

ASH GROVE MBW Page 194

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended. O now be extended the fruits of this service to all who believe. The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace;

Musical Response: (ALL) In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Parting Hymn: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

MBW Page 261 1,3,5

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word and at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

**Welcome, O my Savior, now! Joyful Lord, to you I bow. Come into my heart, I pray; O, prepare yourself away!
Then when You will come again as the glorious king to reign, I with joy will see your face, freely ransomed by your grace.**

(Please remain seated in quiet meditation during the postlude.)

Postlude

We want to thank Laura Hepworth, Tom Emery and Wanda Bench-Emery for lighting our First Advent Wreath Candle of Hope.

Next Sunday, December 8, 2024, we will be celebrating the second Sunday of Advent. The Sunday School will be presenting their Christmas presentation. There will be a Fellowship Hour after worship. We look forward to seeing you all.

Co leaders for the month of December, 2024:

December 8, 2024 - Liz Reres

December 15, 2024 - Margaret Grace

December 22, 2024 - Todd Hallett

December 24, 2024 - Liz Reres

December 29, 2024 - Jim Jimenez