

HOPE



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence. But you, O God, will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead, you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead, you are born among us as an infant. Instead, you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will endeavor to stay alert, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on VENI EMMANUEL
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Bender

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jamie and Marlie Richardson + family

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

People: *We are preparing for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

(The first Advent candle is lighted)

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives.

People: *Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.*

MUSIC

Once in Royal David's City
Dr. Terry McRoberts, organ | Helen Redding, piano

Irby

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship.

(continued)

We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious towards us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Leader: Even in the midst of difficult times, God is with us, bringing peace to us. Receive God's rich blessing of peace and hope.

People: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.*

THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

MUSIC

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Dr. Terry McRoberts, organ | Helen Redding, piano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. John White

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

Rev. John White

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Courtney Bowen

(page 50 in the pew Bibles)

SERMON

"Wait for It"

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostle's Creed*

Rev. John White

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he (continued)

shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

*Doxology (Tune: 591)

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

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. John White
OLD HUNDREDTH

Rev. John White

SENDING

*CHARGE

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*POSTLUDE

Magnificat Fugue VIII:12
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Pachelbel