



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 2022

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *God of glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour. Come to us now, in spirit and in truth. Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 122:1-2 & Isaiah 2:5*)

Rev. John White

One: I was glad when they said to me,

ALL: *Let us go to the house of the Lord!*

One: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

ALL: *Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!*

PRELUDE

Prelude on HYFRYDOL

Jordan

Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT

Rejoice and Sing

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Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Nick, Libby, Jaxon,
Maggie and Ila Reynolds*

RESPONSE (*all singing, refrain only from Hymn: 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 361 *O Christ, the Great Foundation*

AURELIA

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. John White

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Based on Isaiah 1 & Luke 19*)

Rev. John White

Lord of all times, we come into your presence asking your forgiveness. We have failed to live as people of the present. We have wasted our moments, wanting the future now, seeing our dreams as the answer to today's problems. Rather than seeing your blessing in each day, we have looked backward to glory days that seem glorious only in their passing. Open our eyes to our mission at hand. Open our ears to your message to us today, that we might share in bringing the good news of your salvation to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. John White

One: Beloved, you have been bathed in light and clothed with grace. Therefore, put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Know that you are forgiven, and live in peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. John White

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And, also, with you.

THE WORD

ACT OF PRAISE

Advent in A Minor
Jeff Chambers, guitar

Chambers

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

MINUTE FOR MISSION: NEW MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITY

Ty Cowles

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

*HYMN: 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

PREPARE THE WAY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Vivian Jones

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 2:1-5 (pg. 631-632)*

Vivian Jones

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Matthew 24:36-44 (pg. 27-28)*

Rev. John White

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades,
but the word of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Whistling in the Dark

Rev. John White

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

Vivian Jones

In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected.

Jesus is Lord. He has been Lord since the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord!

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center aisle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Vivian Jones

OFFERTORY

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Miller

Justin Little

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

Vivian Jones

SENDING

***HYMN: 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Come, Lord Jesus

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Chancel Choir

(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)

POSTLUDE

Postlude on HYFRYDOL

Westenkuehler

Dr. Terry McRoberts