



Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Introduction

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Prelude... "Here I Am To Worship"

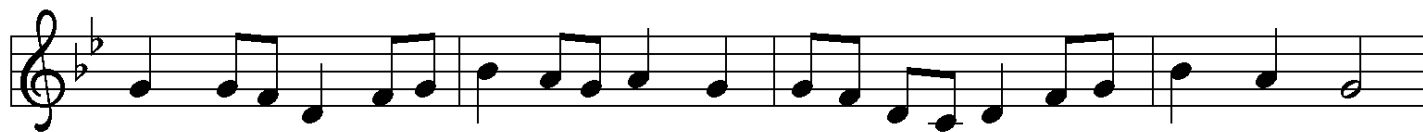
Announcements

Preparation for Worship – Silent Prayer

Gathering Hymn.... "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God With Us, Emmanuel

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

First Sunday of Advent

Responsive Litany—HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

P: During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Wonderful Counselor.

C: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

P: We anticipate the One who hears our prayers.

C: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

P: We anticipate the One who heals our infirmities.

C: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

P: We anticipate the One who renews our faith.

C: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

P: We anticipate the One who ignites our hope.

C: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

Congregation:

Ev-er-last-ing Fa - ther, Prince of Peace,

Won-der-ful Coun - se-lor, Al-might - y God.

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el.

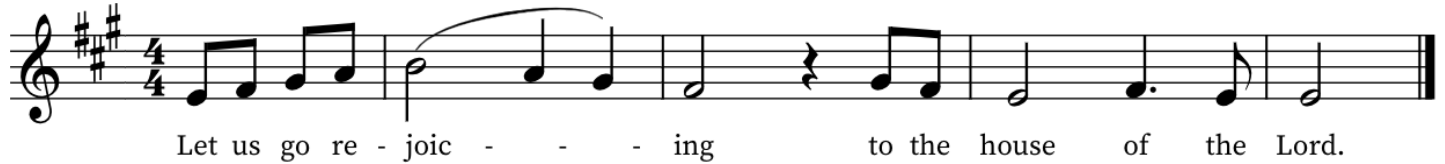
God with us, Em - man - u - el.

Candle Lighting

Today we light the first candle. The first candle reminds us that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor who brings hope to a hurting world. As our counselor, Jesus brings hope in times of despair, compassion in times of sorrow, and healing in times of brokenness. As we begin the season of Advent, let our hope reside in the One who cares about our needs and sustains our faith.

Psalm 122 Let Us Go Rejoicing

Refrain



1-2 I rejoiced because they said to me; "We will go up to the house of the Lord." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem. Refrain.

3-4 Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. Refrain.

4-5 According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. In it are set up judgement seats, seats for the house of David. Refrain.

6-7 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings. Refrain.

8-9 Because of my brothers and friends I will say, "Peace be within you!" Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will pray for your good. Refrain.

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

HERE ENDS THE READING.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

Choir Anthem..... "Keep Your Lamps"

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn..... "The King Shall Come"



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*We pray especially for Amanda, Jeff, Eric, Barbara, Lizzy, Christi, Debbie, Adrian, Katie, Angelika, Danica, Jenna, Dave, Joy, Frank, Kyle, Tyler, John, Tom, Robert, Pat, Cherrie, Gene, Shirley, Jana, Kathie, Del, Regan, Geri, Kristen, Janet, Bob, Michael, Peter, Kelly and Brian; and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day*). Surround all with care and consolation (*We pray especially for the People of Jamaica*).

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering

Offering Song..... "Step By Step"

Offering Prayer

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The 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.

Distribution

We will be using the intinction method for distribution. You will be handed bread and asked to dip the bread in the chalice. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available. Please make your way forward by the center aisle, returning down the side. If mobility is a problem for you, please notify an usher and you will be served at your seat.

Invitation to Communion

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Communion Song..... "Glorious Day"

Post Communion Prayer

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Blessing

May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good
news to share today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn..... "He Came Down"



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.