

The Season of Advent



1st Sunday in Advent
December 3rd, 2023

Gathering

During the Prelude we invite you to greet one another with love outside the Chapel, and allow those within to meditate, pray or just listen.

Prelude “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. by Charles Lindberg

Welcome

*Advent Candle Lighting - “Come, Child of Light” vs. 1

*congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader: The Son of God is among us, bringing hope to all people.

People: Restore us, O God.

Leader: Hope feels far from us and we fail to believe.

People: Restore us, O God.

Leader: Our hope is displaced, set on earthly things rather than the Kingdom of God.

People: Restore us, O God.

Leader: We want to know and trust in the one who brings hope to our lives.

People: Restore us, O God.

Leader: Give us a faith that is sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

People: Restore us, O God.

*Opening Hymn #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1, 6, 7

Poem by Luke Schumann

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away and hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus strengthens and restores us.

People: Thanks be to God, who is faithful to forgive us and give us hope. Hallelujah! Amen.

*Musical Response #113 “Angels We Have Heard On High” (*Refrain*)

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayers

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures: Ephesians 1:15-19; Psalm 80

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Restore Us, O God: Advent Hope”

*Hymn #97 “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Time for Response to Sermon

Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God most high.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn #507 "Come to the Table of Grace"

Prayer After Communion

Announcements

Sending

*Closing Hymn #104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

*Benediction

Postlude "Glad Tidings" by Thomas Chesterton

Feel free to stand, chat and generally share in Fellowship as the Postlude sends us out into the world in Love.

We welcome all who worship with us this day. May you experience God's presence and find inspiration for your journey of faith. This morning the leaders in worship are:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Pastor; **Heidi Thomas**, Music Director;

Ruby Maenpa, Advent Candle Reader; **Diane Ritzdorf**, Liturgist; **Ryan Hodel**, Zoom Host

All music today is used by CCLI-1800777/One License #A-725921