



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

11:00 AM

As a courtesy to
others, please
silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND INVITATION

Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Paul Manz

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

David & Denise Landers

Isaiah 64:1-3

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:
“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence.
As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.”

Mark 13:35

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and
upheaval and our longing for deliverance,
Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—
for you do not know when the master of the house will come.”

**We wait as people surprised again and again by God
who shakes us out of our complacency
and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.**

We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope.
May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world
as we wait in expectation that even now
God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life
with God and one another. **Amen.**

***HYMN 88** (vv. 1, 2, 6 & 7) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel. *(continued next page)*

* Please rise in body
or in spirit.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,
we confess that we can become distracted,
even weary, in our discipleship.
We keep busy schedules; we rush about.
We do not remain alert to your divine presence
in our lives, in the church, in the world.
Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace,
so we do not miss how near you are.
We pray in the name of Christ,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SONG OF JOY 804 (v. 1)**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

MARION

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM

The Road Home
(The Chancel Choir)

Stephen Paulus

Based on
an old
Appalachian
tune.

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home

This anthem
expresses our
Advent longing
for a world that
feels to us
and every
waiting soul
like home.

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away.
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart as the only song.
There is no more beauty than where you belong.
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 32:26-27, 36-41

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

That Question Again

Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors:
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

People, Look East

Steven Phillips

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 105** *People Look East* BESANCON

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE Improvisation on Veni, Emmanuel Steven Phillips

The postlude
concludes our
worship today. It's
the custom of this
congregation to sit
and enter into this
moment with
gratitude and
celebration.



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