# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
## NOVEMBER 28, 2021
## 11:00 AM



**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*"You must be [a people] of ceaseless hope, because only tomorrow can today's human and Christian promise be realized; and every tomorrow will have its own tomorrow, world without end. Every human act, every Christian act, is an act of hope. But that means you must be men and women of the present, you must live this moment—really live it, not just endure it—because this very moment, for all its imperfection and frustration, because of its imperfection and frustration, is pregnant with all sorts of possibilities, is pregnant with the future, is pregnant with love, is pregnant with Christ."*

- Walter J. Burghardt

**CHURCH LIFE UPDATE** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

**INTROIT** *Blessing and Praise* Taizé
(Chancel Choir)

*Benedictus qui venit, benedictus qui venit,*
*In nomine, in nomine,*
*In nomine Domini*

Blessing and praise be given, blessing and praise be given
To him who comes, who comes for us,
Comes in the name of the Lord.

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND DAWNING OF THE LIGHT** Thom and Janet Olshewsky

In Advent, we remember and anticipate the coming of Jesus:
as an infant sent to show us the depths of God's love,
and as the anointed Christ who will come again to reign in power.

*(The first Advent candle is lit.)*

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
**We wait for the Lord, and in God's word we hope.**
For with the Lord there is boundless love, and healing power.
**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

***HYMN 88** *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.

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

**Lord of all hopefulness,**
**You announce to us the day of your coming,**
**but we find ourselves consumed with the worries of this day.**
**You ask us to be vigilant in our watch for your kingdom,**
**but we are weary from so many years**
**of waiting for its fullness.**
**Forgive our distraction, our complacency, our despair.**
**Come to us again, Lord Jesus.**
**Fill us with hope. Restore us in love.**

*(silent prayer)*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SONG OF JOY** *Gloria* Taizé

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Rev. Dr. Kathleen Wiggins

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 40:1-5

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Philippians 2:3-11

**SERMON** *"But . . . Why?"* Rev. Dr. Kathleen Wiggins

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Advent Credo* Allan Boesak
Janet Olshewsky

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

**This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

**This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.**

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

**This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

**This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

**This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.**

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

**This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.**

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope.
**Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.**

Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
**Jesus Christ—the life of the world.**

**ANTHEM** *He Comes to Us as One Unknown* Lyrics by Timothy Dudley-Smith
(The Chancel Choir) Music by John Ferguson

He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
As though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
A pulse of being stirred, a pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie. and thoughts of day depart;
Half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky
Of night within the heart, of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas, he ocean's fume and foam;
Tet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
A voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;
To bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving Name,
For every child of earth, for every child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored:
The Christ in all the Scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown,
Our Savior and our Lord, our Savior and our Lord.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

**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.**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD**
**TO ANNA HANSON BEDFORD** Pamela Lamb and Flossie Paul, PW Co-moderators

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

***HYMN 82** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Hyfrydol

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Kathleen Wiggins

**POSTLUDE** *Improvisation on O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Steven Phillips