

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Join us in singing when invited

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise One, I would do my part; Yet what can I give Him: I will give my heart.

Lector: During this season of Advent, may we have the realization that sometimes the greatest gift we can offer to those we love is the gift of our very presence. Please join me in our Call to Worship: We unwrap a present on this first Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

People: We open our hearts as we open the gift!

Lector: The promise of Hope is the Divine Gift we receive.

People: And what will we do with it?

Lector: The gift of hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word. Hope is not simply a wish. Hope calls us into action based on a belief that things can be different. We can work to bring about the better world that we hope for.

People: We light this Candle of Hope as a sign that we will be Present with Hope in the world.

Opening Song

“Awake, Awake and Greet The New Morn”

See next page for lyrics

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:4-7

See next page for reading

Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

See next page for reading

Gathering Song

“What Gift Can We Bring”

See next page for lyrics

Sermon

Rev. Rick Rhen-Sosbe

Prayers of the People

Join us in singing:

Open My Eyes, God. Help Me To See Your Face.

Open My Eyes, God. Help Me To See To See.

Abre Mis Ojos, Que Quiero Ver Como Tú. Abre Mis Ojos, Ayúdame Aver.

Rise as you are able and pray the prayer

Jesus taught us, saying...

Our Creator, who art in heaven Hallowed be Your name

Your kingdom come Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory Forever. Amen

Join us in singing:

Open My Ears, God. Help Me To Hear Your Voice.

Open My Ears, God. Help Me To Hear.

Abre Mis Oídos, Que Quiero Oír Como Tú. Abre Mis Oídos, Ayúdame A Oír.

Offering

Offertory & Doxology

Join us in singing

What Can I Offer, Poor As I Am? If I Were A Shepherd, I Would Bring A Lamb. If I Were A Wise One, I Would Do My Part; But What Can I Offer: All My Heart.

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Song

Join us in singing-See next page for lyrics

Closing Song

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

See next page for lyrics

Benediction

Lyrics

“Awake, Awake And Greet The Morn”

Awake! Awake, And Greet The New Morn, For Angels Herald Its Dawning,
Sing Out Your Joy, For Jesus Is Born, Behold! The Child Of Our Longing.

Come As A Baby Weak And Poor, To Bring All Hearts Together,
To Open Wide The Heavenly Door, And Lives Now Inside Us Forever.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Take Heart In the Night, Though Cold The Winter And Cheerless,
The Rising Sun Shall Crown You With Light, Be Strong And Loving And Fearless;

Love Be Our Song And Love Our Prayer, And Love, Our Endless Story,
May God Fill Every Day We Share, And Bring Us At Last Into Glory.

“What Gift Can We Bring”

What Gift Can We Bring, What Present, What Token? What Words Can Convey It,
The Joy Of This Day? When Grateful We Come, Remembering, Rejoicing,
What Song Can We Offer In Honor And Praise?

Give Thanks For Tomorrow, Full Of Surprises, For Knowing Whatever Tomorrow
May Bring, The Word Is Our Promise Always, Forever;
We Rest In God's Keeping And Live In God's Love.

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, That Glorious Song Of Old,
From Angels Bending Near The Earth To Touch Their Harps Of Gold;
“Peace On The Earth, Good Will To All, Great News Of Joy We Bring.”
The World In Solemn Stillness Lay To Hear The Angels Sing.

And You, Beneath Life's Crushing Load, Whose Forms Are Bending Low,
Who Toil Along The Climbing Way, With Painful Steps And Slow,
Look Now, For Glad And Golden Hours Come Swiftly On The Wing;
O Rest Beside The Weary Road, And Hear The Angels Sing!

Communion Song

As we gather at Your table As we listen to Your word
Help us know O God Your presence Let our hearts and minds be stirred
Nourish us with sacred story Till we claim it as our own
Teach us through this holy banquet How to make Love's vict'ry known

Turn our worship into witness In the sacrament of life
Send us forth to love and serve You Bringing peace where there is strife
Give us Christ Your great compassion To forgive as You forgave
May we still behold Your image In the world You died to save

Gracious Spirit help us Summon other guests To share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome Those who had been last and least
There no more will envy Blind us nor will pride Our peace destroy
As we join with saints and angels To repeat the sounding joy

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:4-7

Another community at a later time — the early Christians — also lived in a time of oppression by the Roman occupiers. The letters that circulated among them gave them hope for the future. Hear this excerpt from the First Letter to the Corinthians:

Every time I think of you—and I think of you often!—I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus. There's no end to what has happened in you—it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives.

Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Savior Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale.

Second Reading

Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that time of distress, ‘the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.’ Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Promised One is near, right at the door. The truth is, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it — neither the angels of heaven, nor the Only Begotten — no one but Abba God. Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like people traveling abroad. They leave their home and put the workers in charge, each with a certain task, and those who watch at the front gate are ordered to stay on the alert.

So stay alert! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows or at early dawn. Do not let the owner come suddenly and catch you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: stay alert!”