



### **First Sunday of Advent**

November 29, 2020

Click the link below to interact live on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HomerUnitedMethodistChurchAlaska/>

**OR**

Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/C8T8QgmttLY>

#### **Centering**

- worship guide
- offer gratitude for the indigenous peoples whose land you live on
- prepare to light your Advent wreath

#### **Lighting the Advent Candles<sup>1</sup>**

Dunn Family

Today we begin our celebration of Advent. On these four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we will rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Jesus Christ. To help us celebrate, we light the candles of the Advent wreath. The candles signify that Jesus is the Light of the World. The evergreens remind us that he is life and brings abundant life to us. These branches are arranged in a circle because the love of Christ has no end.

Each Sunday we will light an additional candle. Then on Christmas Eve, we will light all the candles, including the center one, the Christ candle. As we do, we will rejoice that Christ has come to us. He is Immanuel...God with us.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope.

Dear God,  
As we begin our Advent pilgrimage,  
grant us the courage to hope.  
Hope for your presence,  
Hope for your peace,  
Hope for your promise. **Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> Liturgy adapted from <http://Inwhymns.com/LightingAdventCandles.aspx> and Katherine Hawker at [www.liturgyoutside.net](http://www.liturgyoutside.net)

## Opening Song

WORDS: Christina Rossetti, 1872  
MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906  
CCLI Song #294736  
CCLI # 11365960

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Ola Mullikin

## Prayer for Illumination<sup>2</sup>

Advent is a time of waiting, a time to open our hearts to God's presence, a time to pay attention to God's call. God's love breaks in over and over again. Be away, for God is near.

Let us pray:

We are waiting, O God. We are waiting to hear your word. We are waiting to sense your presence. We are waiting with hope. Open our hearts that we may be renewed by your grace and transformed by your love. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Dick Dunn

Jesus said, "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

## Sermon

It's the End of the World as We Know It

Pastor Lisa

Our time is not God's time. Our timing is not God's timing. Our ways are not God's ways.

## Song of Response

*Dona Nobis Pacem*

Vheneka

WORDS: traditional, Latin, Public Domain  
MUSIC: traditional; arr. for marimbas by Karin Sonnen  
CCLI Song #469107  
CCLI # 11365960

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<sup>2</sup> Mary Petrina Boyd, Abingdon Worship Annual 2020

## **Deck the Halls with ... Hope**

Annelisa Neely

This year, the holidays will look a little different, but no matter what, we can still deck the halls with hope, peace, joy, and love.

## **Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God**

Thank you for your continued generosity. Your gifts help us maintain the work of the church.

Give online: <https://www.homerumcalaska.org/Donate.html>

Give by check: Homer UMC, 770 East End Road, Homer, AK, 99603

## **Closing Song**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Ola Mullikin

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Rowland H. Pritchard  
CCLI Song #31999  
CCLI # 11365960

## **Benediction<sup>3</sup>**

In the darkness, the candle of hope burns brightly.  
In the stillness, the quiet voice of God speaks to us.  
Stay awake, for God is near!

**Amen.**

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<sup>3</sup> adapted from Mary Petrina Boyd