



# Traditional Worship Service The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

## *The Service for the Lord's Day*

### WE GATHER

PRELUDE "The Holy Boy"

John Ireland

### WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

### \*ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Don Robertson and Linda Robertson

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

**We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together. We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### \*SUNG RESPONSE

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (from *God to Glory*)

TIF IN VELDELE

## Light One Candle to Watch 85 for Messiah



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -  
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the  
light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and  
light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light be shin - ing.

\*Please stand as you are able

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#2

HYFRYDOL

*WE CONFESS*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*WE LISTEN*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hebrew Scripture: Lamentations 3:55-57

Judy Smullen

Gospel: Luke 1:5-13

Leader: The word of the Lord;

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karen Kinney

*"Fear and Hope: An Advent Journey"*

*WE RESPOND*

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Advent gives us room to sit with fear—not to banish it, but to listen. What are we afraid to hope for? What have we stopped praying for? Where has fear caused us to shrink back?

\*SERMON HYMN

In the Time of Herod (from *A Sanctified Art* – see back page)

CRANHAM

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe. We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: *Unto us, love is born*. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So *still*, we believe. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING**

Call to Give

Offertory A tender shoot

Colin Davey

Chancel Choir

**\*Doxology**

#592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

#6

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

**\*BENEDICTION**

**In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with—go in peace and be not afraid. Amen.**

POSTLUDE Sortie sur le Noel

Alexandre Guilmant

*You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!*



The First Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?  
IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN

# In the Time of Herod

CRANHAM 11.11.11.11

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Gustav Holst, 1906

In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold Hope was bur - ied  
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep - ing in Day by day the  
Pierc - ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song "Do not fear!" rings  
In the time of He - rod, fear has ta - ken hold Still we share a

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deep and hid - den, rare as gold Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared  
peo - ple bent and drew with - in With the clouds so hea - vy, who  
hol - low when we've feared so long Still in the re - cess - es of  
long - ing for a glimpse of hope Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout

not speak a - loud Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break - ing through the clouds  
could see the stars? Hope - less - ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars  
our wea - ry souls Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?  
the truth we trust: God will stop at no - thing to be here with us