

Sunday November 30, 2025 10:00 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent
A Service of Hope

We're so pleased that you've come to worship with us this morning. While this bulletin is a guide to the service, if you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Anglican Church, simply relax with the liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. After the service please join us downstairs for coffee, tea, and juice.

(Congregational participation in **BOLD**)

Greeting/Land Acknowledgement

HYMN: Holy Child Within the Manger
(See insert)

We gather together in this place:
prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,
we who dare to imagine a world renewed;
we who dare to dream God's dream.
We proclaim expectation with Isaiah!
God's redemption is near!
Through tears and through trials,
we hold fast to our hope.
Do not fear, for God is faithful.
Our redemption rises with the dawn.

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.
We have come to wonder and praise.

Collect
God who is, who was, and who is to come,
we enter this season of Advent keenly aware
of the brokenness in and around us.
Comfort our longing spirits,
and teach us again how to be people of profound hope.
You never leave our side,
but walk with us in our pilgrimage
toward the renewed world you promise.
We pray as expectant people,
seeking again the assurance of your salvation,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ, our hope and our Savior. **Amen**.

Advent Candle Lighting
The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. The element of the story that we focus on changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, and how we experience it.
Close your eyes for a moment …
…. Mary and Joseph held on to hope when their options seemed to be in short supply. It was a hope that things would get better.
We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.

Light the first candle

First Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5
Reader: Carol Gardiner
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God

Second Reading: Psalm 122
Reader: Carol Gardiner
I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of GOD."
Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
To which the tribes go up, the tribes of GOD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of GOD.
For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
For my people and companions' sake,
I pray for your prosperity.
Because of the house of GOD our God,
I will seek to do you good."
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God

PSALM HYMN # 112 Behold! The Mountain of the Lord *(Blue Book)*

The Gospel Reading: (*standing*)
God be with you
And also with you
The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 24: 36-44
Reader: Deacon Lynne Smith
The Gospel of Christ
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Isaiah Narrative – *Ross Lennox*

Homily – *The Rev. Dr. Jane Rowland*

The Prayers of the People – *Carol Gardiner*
God of our hope,
Hear our prayers, and shape us evermore into people of hope.

Confession
Heeding Jesus' call to keep awake,
let us be humble and bold in confessing the truth
of the brokenness in our hearts, our actions, and our systems.

God of hope,
we confess that we too often seek salvation
from that which will not save us.
We cling to our own comfort,
rather than being generous with our gifts and privilege.
We are complicit in systems that benefit us,
rather than challenging the exploitation
of neighbors and creation.
We act from fear rather than faith.
Transform our hearts with your mercy.
Forgive us and renew us.
Make us restless for justice.
Teach us again to be people of courage and hope.
We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

OFFERTORY HYMN # 599 Awake! Awake!
Fling Off the Night (Tune: CP 592 FULDA) (*Blue Book)*

Prayer over the Gifts

Invitation to the Table

Eucharistic Prayer
Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you
Celebrant: Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.
People: We lift them up to God.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.
People: It is right to offer thanks and praise

Celebrant: It is a joyous occasion, ….
… join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest x2

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Blessed is he who comes in the names of the Lord.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Celebrant: Holy are you, …
…mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Send your Spriit upon us, …
…Now and forever.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The gifts of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Chant # 164 Christe Lux Mundi
(Red Book)

THE COMMUNION

HYMN # 96 Creator of the Stars of Night
(Blue Book)

The Prayer after Communion

Affirmation of Hope
Let us affirm God's gift of strong and sturdy hope together.
We believe in a strong and sturdy hope—a hope which fully sees the world's pain, while refusing to accept life must be this way.
We name false stories and lament shallow optimism or wishful thinking.

Like Isaiah, we remember what God has done before.
With the Spirit's compassion and imagination,
we commit all we have and all we are into making a new reality
—God's dream—come true.
As God's family, we dream together, and hope together, and work together.
We give our creativity and courage, our prayers and perseverance, remembering that "hope is what we do."
What we practice, we will become.

Announcements

HYMN # 95 O Come, Divine Messiah
(Blue Book)

The Dismissal

Go forth from this place
and notice where hopeful change has taken place and where it is still needed. Raise your voice in praise of hopeful change, and pray for where hope has yet to take root.
Consider how your actions and words
can contribute toward transformative justice,
and peace in your home, school, community, and beyond.

Go out in the world embracing the will to dream,
and may hope fill you and fuel you for the days ahead.