

November 28, 2021, 8:30 am
First Sunday of Advent



Hope

Emily Dickinson said, *“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words and never stops—at all—”* She captures the essence of this fluttering of the Spirit in the hearts of people of faith. It is a force—at once fragile and gentle, but unwavering and unstoppable—that ministers to our souls. It speaks to us of goodness when all about seems threatening. It speaks to us of persistence when despair gnaws at us. It speaks to us of a light, growing brighter, when shadows crowd round us. It is the song that accompanies us in the night, promising the dawn. It is fitting that we begin our Advent journey here—in the place of hope—as we long for the light that is coming.



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord. And
5 all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God Pre -

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND READING

The Bryant Family

ADVENT RESPONSE

W.P. Sterneman III

9 Come E - man-u-el come! Come E - man-u-el come! Give us ev - er
last - ing Hope! Come and_ lead us with your light!

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

- 1 Toda la tierra espera al Salvador
y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor;
es el mundo que lucha por la libertad,
reclama justicia y busca la verdad.

- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he his present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Creating God, we are unafraid and undeterred, for our hope is in you. Our trust is in your grace, and your goodness. Hope in you is a light that grows in us, leading us to the fulfillment of your promise of deliverance, redemption and peace. **Amen.**

JOB 11:13-19

¹³ "If you direct your heart rightly, you will stretch out your hands toward him. ¹⁴ If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and do not let wickedness reside in your tents. ¹⁵ Surely then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be secure, and will not fear. ¹⁶ You will forget your misery; you will remember it as waters that have passed away. ¹⁷ And your life will be brighter than the noonday; its darkness will be like the morning. ¹⁸ And you will have confidence, because there is hope; you will be protected and take your rest in safety. ¹⁹ You will lie down, and no one will make you afraid; many will entreat your favor.

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

PSALM 33

ADVENT PSALM ANTIPHON

W.P. Sterneman III

Be still, be still. Wait pa-tient-ly for the Lord.

¹ Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

² Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

Advent Psalm Antiphon

³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

⁴ For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

Advent Psalm Antiphon

¹⁸ Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

¹⁹ to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Advent Psalm Antiphon

²⁰ Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

²¹ Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

²² Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Advent Psalm Antiphon

ROMANS 8:18-25

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel.**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 12:15-21

¹⁵ Many crowds followed Jesus, and he cured all of them, ¹⁶ and he ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸ "Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. ²⁰ He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory. ²¹ And in his name the Gentiles will hope."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

TIME OF REFLECTION

SONG OF THE DAY

“My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise”

1 My heart sings out with joyful praise
To God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low
And changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God,
Is always full of grace
To those who seek their maker's will
In ev'ry time and place.

3 The promise made in ages past
At last has come to be,
For God has come in pow'r to save,
To set all people free.
Rememb'ring those who wait to see
Salvation's dawning day,
Our savior comes to all who weep
To wipe their tears away.

2 The arm of God is strong and just
To scatter all the proud.
The tyrants tumble from their thrones
And vanish like a cloud.
The hungry all are satisfied;
The rich are sent away.
The poor of earth who suffer long
Will welcome God's new day.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, in this season of thanksgiving, we bring to you the first fruits of our lives and livelihoods, celebrating the blossoming of your blessings in us.

All that we are and all that we have, are gifts from you. With grateful hearts we offer our gifts so that, multiplied in your hand, they may flow forth in ministry and reach out to bless others. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and might, Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

All are welcome to celebrate communion at Abiding Love. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. Take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the tray. Children and adults not communing are welcome to receive a blessing. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

COMMUNION SONG

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

- 1 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 ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
- 2 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.**

COMMUNION SONG

“When Pain of the World Surrounds Us”

#704

- 1 When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us with false hopes ev'rywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.

- 3 The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill
to nourish all the people, God's purpose to fulfill.
May we with humble courage be open to God's will.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's Spirit flow through us.

- 4 We praise you for our journey and your abundant grace,
your saving word that guided a struggling human race.
O God, with all creation, your future we embrace.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's changes flow through us.

COMMUNION PRAYER

God of grace, you have gathered us at your table and fed us with heavenly food: the bread of life, the wine of forgiveness.

Send us now as your people, to share your love and grace with a world that is searching for meaning and truth. Send us as emissaries of your goodness, agents of your justice, workers in your Kingdom and bearers of your peace. We go in Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

#726

- 1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

- 2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

- 3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

PROCLAIMING OUR MISSION AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

We go forth together, **sharing God's love!**

TRAVELING MERCIES

Go in peace, live in grace
Trust in the arms that will hold you
Go in peace, live in grace
Trust God's love

POSTLUDE

Celebrate Advent & Christmas

November 28: Hope

8:30 & 11:00 am Advent Worship

December 4: Women's Advent Brunch

9:00 am Activity Center

December 5: Joy

8:30 & 11:00 am Advent Worship
12:00 pm Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Brad Highum
Activity Center

December 12: Peace

8:30 & 11:00 am Advent Worship
Music Cantata: "Christmas Dreams"
9:45 am Children's Christmas Celebration

December 19: Love

8:30 & 11:00 am Advent Worship

December 24: Christmas Eve

6:00 pm Child-friendly worship
Christmas story, communion, candlelight, carols
8:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Communion

December 26: A New Light is Shining

8:30 & 11:00 am Christmastide Worship

January 2: Splendor of the Lord

8:30 & 11:00 am Christmastide Worship

SERVING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Rev. Tim Anderson
Altar Guild:(8:30) Billye Trostel, Georgia Wood (11:00) Denise Alaimo
Assisting Minister:(8:30) Karron Lewis (11:00) Joyce Flachmeier
Communion Assistants:(8:30)Diane McGowan (11:00) Bill Hatcher
Lector:(8:30) Steven Bryant (11:00) Nan Hatcher
Music Leaders: Cordelia Bryant, Noah Sonderling, Gus Sterneman, Mixed Blessings
Ushers:(8:30)Beverly & Randy Sones (11:00) Kurt Armstrong, Steve Essinger
Sound: George Glaser Camera: Karl Sterneman

ABIDING LOVE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
9:45 am Faith Formation for All Ages

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

11:00 am ALLC Food Pantry
6:00 pm Bread For All Food Pantry
7:00 pm AA (Music Room)
7:00 pm Troop 555 (AC)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10:30 am Tuesday Bible Study (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Music Room)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:15 am Women Alive (Zoom)
10:00 am Staff Meeting (Classroom)
6:00 pm Music Rehearsals
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:50 pm Cantata Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

4:30 pm GS Troop 44630 (Activity Center)
6:30 pm Stress Coping (MS)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

3:00 pm Advent Brunch Set up

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 am Advent Brunch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
9:45 am Faith Formation for All Ages
12:00 pm Anniversary Celebration (Activity Center)