

Dedication of Offering

Special Music *Go Tell It On the Mountain* – Tuba Ensemble

Benediction

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—
For the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere.

We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,

And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.

The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts.

We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.

We will go forth from this place in hope.

Congregational Response – *The House Is Bright, Our Praise We Sing*

Postlude – *Joy to the World, We Wish You a Merry Christmas* – Tuba Ensemble

Ensemble Participants

- Ange Bertucci
- Cindy Bridges
- Dan Dietrich
- Chris Vandre
- Larry Weber
- Brian Woods
- Heather Woods

First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

December 03, 2023
† indicates standing, if able

Fellowship of the Church

(Please register on pads at end of each pew.)
We want to extend a special welcome to our first-time visitors. You are invited to stop at the Visitor’s Table before you leave to receive more information about our church and a little something extra.

Music for Meditation – *Deck the Halls*

Tuba Ensemble

Moment of Silence

Opening Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-4

Leader: The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

People: Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Leader: He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Opening Prayer

About this Service

Carol - #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vss. 1,2,4)

Advent Wreath

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Response: #125 *Come, O Long-expected Jesus* (vs. 1)

Windows

Scripture - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reading

Tuba Ensemble – *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Walls

Scripture - Isaiah 41:17-20

Reading

Carol #142 *People, Look East* (vss. 1,3,4)

Manger and Nativity

Scripture - John 1:1-5, 9-14

Reading

St. Francis of Assisi is often credited with the first manger scene about 800 years ago. For a people who could not read it was an effective visual aid in telling the story of the birth of Jesus. We have such a scene today. As we arrange the wise men, shepherds, animals, angels, Mary and Joseph (the baby Jesus will wait for Christmas), let us join in this responsive prayer of dedication.

Jesus came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin and despair.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That these figures may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That this Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of the Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of hate. Pour forth your blessings during this holy season. We pray this in the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Tuba Ensemble – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Children's Time

Decking the Chancel

Scripture - Isaiah 53:1-6

Reading

Carol #172 *We Three Kings* (vss. 1,2,5)

Chrismon Tree

Scripture - Titus 3:4-7

Reading

Special Music – *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, The First Noel* – Tuba Ensemble

Lighting the Tree

Reflection

Prayer of Dedication

Communion Hymn #136 *Christians All, Your Lord is Coming* (vss. 1,3)

The Lord's Supper – An Advent of Prayer – Stairs

All: “Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.”

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Helmore/Lau

Doxology (Tune: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow on every
hill and coast!

Lift up your voice and join the multitudes of heavenly
hosts,

Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Ghost!

Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!

Oh tidings of comfort and joy!