

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 3, 2017  
11:00 A.M.

*Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.*

**GATHERING TO PRAISE**

PRELUDE "Trio Sonata in E $\flat$ " Johann Sebastian Bach  
Emily Amos, guest organist

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GETTING ACQUAINTED  
*Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance Card as it is passed.*

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*This is God's house – a place of peace where we befriend one another in the name of Christ. Greet those around you as a sign of God's peace and Christ's friendship.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Like the Israelites, who praised you in the midst of preparations to leave Egypt.

**People: Like Jesus and the disciples, who celebrated their oneness with you in the midst of crisis.**

Leader: We turn to you O God, in the midst of our lives.

**People: We gather at your table to remember your mighty works of old.**

Leader: We lay our hopes and fears before you, in joyful anticipation of the future you are bringing into being.

**All: Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence with us now and always.**

\*HYMN "Blessed be the God of Israel" No. 209

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

***Where Children Belong*** (congregation sings)

***This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.***

***Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.***

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LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Hymn "Advent Song" No. 2090 (vs.1)

Voice 1: We light one candle to remind us of the prophets, who believed in God during dark days, and looked forward to the coming of Christ.

Voice 2: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. (Isaiah 9:2)

**ALL: Living God, we thank you for faithful people of every age. We pray that we, too, may have faith, in spite of the darkness of our times, and may look for the coming of Jesus into our world. Amen.**

## CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER

### Invitation to Confession

**As followers of Christ, we are always on a journey. On our pilgrimage there is no time when we can afford to stop growing in faith, in hope and in love. In preparation for the coming of Christ, let us confess our need for growth, in silence before God:** *(silent prayer of confession)*

### Words of Assurance

#### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

**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. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM "And The Glory of The Lord (from Messiah)" G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1: 18-25 (NT p. 1)

Leader: The Word of God. **All: For the People of God.** Leader: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Joseph: Man of Dreams"

### CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Come forward as directed, where you will be given a piece of bread and which you may dip in the cup (gluten-free bread is also available). Please let an usher know if you cannot come forward so the elements can be brought to you. **During this time you are invited to bring your offering forward to the plates available on the chancel.** Those in the balcony may remain seated, servers will come to you. Our Stephen Ministers are positioned in the back of the sanctuary to offer a blessing prayer. You may stop there before or after receiving communion.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (see insert)

Sharing the Bread and Cup

\*Doxology No. 95

**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

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" No. 206

\*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Sevenfold Amen" John Stainor

\*POSTLUDE "Fugue on the name Alain" Maurice Duruflé  
Emily Amos, organ