

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 1, 2019  
11:00 A.M.

*Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.*

**GATHERING TO PRAISE**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*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 AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

One: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

**All: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,  
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE      "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"      No. 213

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

"Jesus Loves Me" (sung processional)  
***Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong. REFRAIN: Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.***  
(sung recessional)  
***Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,  
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. REFRAIN***

**CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER**

HYMN      "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"      No. 211 (vs. 1)

UNISON PRAYER

**O Emmanuel, our Lord and God: Come and save us we pray. Forgive our comfortableness with false gods and harmful loyalties. Free us again to joyfully serve you even as we await the fullness of your reign. Amen.**

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

No. 211 (vs. 7)

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)

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 24: 36-44

(NT p. 27)

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

*Joy to This World Sermon Series:*

SERMON

"Hoping for God to Come Down"

### **BRINGING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

*At this time please pass the attendance pads back down your pew (if you're on the lower level, back toward the angled aisles). Use this opportunity to indicate on the pad the needs you want us to be aware of or your areas of interest.*

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 will be positioned in the back of the sanctuary to offer a blessing prayer. You may stop there before or after receiving communion.*

An Advent Prayer for Holy Communion

(see below)

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION

"All Earth is Waiting"

No. 210 (vs 1 & 2)

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"May God Keep You Forever"

Brenda Henegar

\*POSTLUDE

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.  
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

\*All who are comfortable standing are invited to stand.

### **An Advent Prayer for Holy Communion**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Holy and Merciful God, in this season of Advent come to us quickly. We hear many false claims for our attention and loyalty. Help these quiet moments of communion be a time when we can hear you speak of a love that is sure and certain; a time when we can in return offer our hearts in gratitude and praise; for you have sent to us and our world a savior who is Christ the Lord.

May our sharing in this bread and cup be for us a reminder that we share the blessings of his life, death and resurrection. In the cold of wintery days, may we experience what the prophet Isaiah foretold, a flower of forgiveness and a blossom of new life springing up in our midst.

Sing: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" No. 216 (vs. 1&2)

Pastor: We remember the depth of our Savior's love, how on the night he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table with his first disciples, he took...

Blessed are you, God, for the wondrous things you have done for the world in Jesus Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and upon these gifts. Remind us of your continuing presence through Jesus our Emmanuel and call again us to follow him in hope-filled service to our community and world.

**All: Amen.**

*"Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it in order to give it. In this act he sums up his own life as well as ours. Jesus himself was taken, blessed and broken so as to be given and, as children of God we, too, are taken, blessed and broken to become a gift for others." (Henri Nowen)*