

# 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT– December 1, 2024



The First Sunday of Advent draws us into the promise for peace given to Jerusalem and her citizens as a sign of the coming Messiah who will rescue and redeem Israel. Paul reminded believers that they were closer now, in Christ, than ever before to the promise of salvation. Until Jesus returns, we are challenged to be ready, for no one knows the time or the day when he will come again in glory.

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUEST

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ All who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to join in communion today.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN WARNELL

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL PRELUDE - Karen Warnell

▲ ENTRANCE HYMN - "THE KING SHALL COME" LBW #33

▲ ADVENT CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (Luke 7:18-23, adapted)

The disciples of John came to Jesus and asked:

**"Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"**

Jesus replied to them: "Go back and report what you have seen and heard:

**The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and good news is preached to the poor.**

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

**You worked the works of God, Lord of Glory, that we should believe in you, in this unholy age.**

Help us to keep faith in the midst of the world's doubt, lest we desert you and deny you when days of trouble come. We confess now our doubts and weakness before you.

(SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SELF-EXAMINATION)

In Christ's name your sins are forgiven. Go in peace and the grace of our Lord Jesus build you up in faith and holiness that you may stand in the day of trouble. **Amen**

- ▲ KYRIE (To the tune of "Come, O Precious Ransom, Come" - LBW #24)

Let us pray to God the Lord, **for his peace and our salvation.**

Let us pray for unity **and the health of every nation.**

Grant, O God, your mercy wide; **keep us safely by your side.**

- ▼ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – THE HALL FAMILY

#### LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE—A CANDLE OF HOPE

During Advent we move through a cycle repeated year after year—a cycle that continues to amaze us as we watch and wait with breathless wonder for the miracle of God in human flesh to be born anew into our lives.

**Advent reminds us that God is actively fulfilling sacred promises today, just as God has fulfilled sacred promises from the beginning of time, and from generation to generation. We live in the light of hope as we await the fulfillment of God's promised reign upon the earth.**

We wait with firm faith and belief because we have witnessed God at work in the past and the present—and that fills us with hope and the assurance of a final fulfillment in the future. However, we do not wait idly, but strive daily to actively demonstrate God's love to others. In this time of waiting and anticipation we are reminded to increase our love for others with open hearts and willing spirits.

(Light first candle)

**We light the first Advent candle—a candle of Hope--as an expression of our desire to find ways to serve one another cheerfully and joyfully as we wait expectantly and hopefully for your return.**

PRAYER: O God of Hope...

**We praise you for this time of Advent. Help us walk in the ways of justice and righteousness, and in the light of Your love as we seek to increase our love for one another. Keep us watchful and expectant as we wait for your return. AMEN.**

ADVENT SONG (To the tune of "Go Tell It On The Mountain")

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go tell it on the mountain, the Day of God is near. The Spirit fills the Savior to speak God's Righteous Word that brings peace and salvation wherever it is heard. Go tell it on the mountain, the Day of God is near.**

▼ BAPTISM OF CAROLINE ELIZABETH BYRD

▲ **DEUTERONOMY 22:23-24** (p. 194 in pew Bible)

▲ **2 CORINTHIANS 9:12-15** (p. 1150 in pew Bible)

▼ KCJAM/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ ADVENT GOSPEL VERSE (To the tune of "On Jordan's Banks" - LBW #36)

**O Christ the Lord step forth we pray and speak your word to us today;  
Our minds with gospel truth now fill that we may know and do God's will.**

▲ The Holy Gospel from the 1st Chapter of Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.** (Sung)

▲ **LUKE 1:18-24**

▲ The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (Sung)

▼ MESSAGE - WHY JOSEPH

▲ HYMN - "TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS"

**Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus 335**

*We . . . reflect the Lord's glory, . . . being transformed into His likeness. 2 Cor. 3:18*

Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, Look full in His won-der-ful face,  
won-der-ful face,

And the things of earth will grow strange-ly dim In the light of His glo-ry and grace.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus'. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are the vocal line, with the lyrics 'Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, Look full in His won-der-ful face, won-der-ful face,' written below. The last two staves are the piano accompaniment, with the lyrics 'And the things of earth will grow strange-ly dim In the light of His glo-ry and grace.' written below. The music is in 3/4 time and G major. The title 'Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus 335' is at the top right, and a subtitle 'We . . . reflect the Lord's glory, . . . being transformed into His likeness. 2 Cor. 3:18' is below it.

▲ APOSTLES' CREED (Spoken)

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

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

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

▼ PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs...

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

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

▼ OFFERING HYMN (To the tune of "What Child Is This" – LBW #40)

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts en-throne him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

▼ OFFERING PRAYER

**We offer, kind Father, our gifts and praise, a joyful return for the gift of your Son. Amen**

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

▲ PREFACE DIALOG (To the tune of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" - LBW #45)

The Lord God be with you. **And with you, His servant.**

Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**With hearts uplifted, thanks to Him we render**

**With joy we come before Him, In gratefulness implore Him,**

**With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!**

## ▲ THANKSGIVING

Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, Almighty Creator, Merciful Lord, God of Promise and Fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

## ▲ THE SANCTUS (To the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - LBW #60)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!  
Hail hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh,  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing!  
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due, Be forever, Lord to you!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## ▲ LORD'S PRAYER (To the tune of "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" - LBW #54)

**Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, / Most holy be Your name.  
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, / On earth, in heav'n the same.  
Give us this day the food we need; / Forgiven may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead; / From evil set us free.  
Yours is the kingdom; Unto You / in grateful love we bow;  
And yours the pow'r, Lord, let us view / Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung / By angel host and men  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue / Forevermore! Amen.**

## ▲ LAMB OF GOD (To the tune of "Silent Night" - LBW #65)

**Lamb of God, hear our prayer, Lifted high as we draw near:  
Take away the sin of the world, take away the sin of the world,  
Grant in mercy your peace, grant in mercy your peace.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

## ▲ POST COMMUNION HYMN (To the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"- LBW #71)

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise, tell the world what he has done.  
He recalls his promises, keeps them all in his dear Son. Gloria! Sing songs of  
thanksgiving. Gloria! Joyful hearts uplifting.**

▲ DISMISSAL PRAYER

Send us forth into your Father's world, **O Lord of Glory, and let the love and unity of this table find a place in all our hearts and homes. Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION

May the God of peace fill you with all joy and peace in believing. So that by the power of The Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

▲ SENDING SONG – "PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY " LBW #26

▲ DISMISSAL (Spoken)

Christ has come. Christ is with us. Christ will come again.  
**We watch and pray for his glorious Day!**

POSTLUDE