

**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude *Silent Night - Bell Choir*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

Jim Fox

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all.
The Lord is near.
We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.
Let us worship God!
—based on Philippians 4:4-5, NIV

 **Invocation** (*Responsively*)

Jim Fox

If our lives are dry and parched,
**Lord, send the living waters of your Spirit
to revive us, to enliven us,
to bring forth new life.
Immanuel, come quickly.**
If our times are empty and barren,
**Lord, grant us a rich harvest,
send us home with sheaves of blessing,
fill us with your abundance,
and teach us to share the harvest with others.
Immanuel, come quickly.**
If our bodies are weary and heavy laden,
**Lord, fill us with laughter;
give us shouts of joy;
envelop us with your gladness.
Immanuel, come quickly.**
If our lives are small and trivial,
**Lord, make us see great things;
enlarge our vision;
widen our borders.
Immanuel, come quickly.**
—based on Psalm 126

 **Hymn 144**
145

How Great Our Joy! (Verses 1—2)
O Come, All Ye Faithful (Verses 1-2)

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

John & Luke Keeler

Prepare the way of the Lord.
We light this candle in hope,
the hope of our coming Savior, Jesus.
Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Response *Come, Light Our Hearts*

McCracken

Chorus

*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.
Truly our hope is in You.
Truly our hope is in You.*

Verse 1

*O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines on all who look
to You in the dark.
Emmanuel come,
come light our hearts.*

Chorus

Verse 2

*O joy above all other loves,
in You we find more than enough.
We come as we are;
O heal and restore,
come light our hearts.*

Chorus

Tag

Truly our hope is in You.

Confessing

God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Jim Fox

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

Jim Fox

Lord, we have not kept watch for you.
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have not waited to find your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.
Help us to wait to know your will.
Help us to look out for the needs of others.
Help us to work and watch for your coming. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Jim Fox

As we hear the ancient prophecies of the coming of the Messiah,
we long for the day when death will be swallowed up
and every tear will be wiped away.
As we wait expectantly for Christ's promised return,
we live in the assurance of God's gracious forgiveness.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.
With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.
With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Offering

Offertory *Joy to the World - Bell Choir*
*(Adrienne Boyance; Linda Gyath, Bernie Hughes, Greg Mauer,
Robin Miller, Jill Swatton, Dave Williams, Lori Williams)*

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

Prayer of Dedication

O Mighty One,
you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.
Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our
possessions—
that through us your grace and favor
may be made known to all the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon

Calls His Name Jesus

Dennis Leshner

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Verse 1)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:13-17, Luke 1:26-33

⁷13 Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you also try the patience of my God? ¹⁴ Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ By the time he learns to reject what is bad and choose what is good, he will be eating curds and honey. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows to reject what is bad and choose what is good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring on you, your people, and your father's house such a time as has never been since Ephraim separated from Judah: He will bring the king of Assyria."

¹²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

Sermon

"Until the Son of God Appear"

Rev. Tim Latham



Hymn 141

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

Responding *We respond to God's Word*

Profession of Faith *(Apostle's Creed)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and buried;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Commissioning *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

Hymn 160 *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Benediction & Blessing

Postlude