

**First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

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

Hob Pusey

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**

Hob Pusey

Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; we praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and for ever. **Amen.**

 **Opening Hymn 123**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Advent Candle Lighting

Dan & Susan Obenschain

Reader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

All: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has
shined.

—Isaiah 9:2, NRSV

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Hob Pusey

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

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

Hob Pusey

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember our iniquity forever.
**Restore us, we pray, through the coming of our Lord Jesus,
in whom we place our hope and trust. Amen.**

—based on Isaiah 64:1-9, NRSV

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hob Pusey

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!

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

 **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**


God of hope, you gave your Son to free a lost world.
You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage. You give us hope for
a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears. You promise us a future with
you. In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes. May our
gifts be used so that many others will taste and see the goodness of
knowing you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

 **Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You
All: And also with you

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

 **Preparation Hymn 560** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Prayer of Illumination

Lord God, we wish to see Jesus. By your Spirit's power, give us eyes
to see his glory. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**

—based on John 12:21

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-33 (and various other scriptures)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she

was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Sermon

"The God of Hope"
Rev. Dr. Dennis Leshner



Hymn of Response 58

This is My Father's World

Responding

We respond to God's Word



Profession of Faith (In Unison)

In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem
to become one with us.
In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea
to teach us how to live.
In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary
to bear away our sin.
In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden
to defeat death's power over us.
In love you ascended beyond the clouds
to be our reigning Lord.
You came to love us so that we need never feel
unloved, deserted, alone, condemned.

Prayers of the People

God, our hope,
we rejoice that you became flesh and made your dwelling among us,
even as we long for your return.
As we wait, our hearts overflow with gratitude:
for the beauty of creation . . .
for your work in the world . . .
for signs of peace and reconciliation . . .
for our community and its leaders . . .
for your work accomplished through your church, especially for . . .
For all these reasons and so much more we give you praise.
As we celebrate the first coming of your Son as a helpless child,
we also yearn for his return,
for the day in which there will be no more sorrow, pain, or death.
Today we remember in prayer:
the nations of the world . . .

those in authority . . .
the needs of the community . . .
the church universal, its mission, and those who minister . . .
the local congregation and its ministry, especially . . .
those with particular needs . . .
We offer these prayers in the name Jesus Christ, our source of hope. **Amen.**

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Commission Hymn 151** *Good Christian Men Rejoice*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**