

**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

**Gathering
*God invites us to enter His presence***

Prelude

*Wachet Auf
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*Nicolai
Broughton*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship**

Dan Obenschain

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."**
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

 **Invocation**

Dan Obenschain

God of Israel,
with expectant hearts
we your people await Christ's coming.
As once he came in humility,
so now may he come in glory,
that he may make all things perfect
in your everlasting kingdom.
For he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

 **Hymn 119**
129

*O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful and
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

Lighting of the Advent Candles (*Responsively*)

The Fieo Family

We light [*these candles*] as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

—from Isaiah 2:4, NRSV

Confessing

God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

Dan Obenschain

It is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

God of peace, hear our prayer.

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

The worry about the little details,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

The financial burdens we put on ourselves,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year, your peace is always there for us.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we feel overwhelmed,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When we are filled with worry,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When we become irritable,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us,

help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

Instill within us your peace

and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you.

Help us to be more peaceful

so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Dan Obenschain

Almighty God, by whose providence
our Savior, Jesus Christ, came among us in great humility,
will sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

🕯️ O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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!

Offering

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

Invitation The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;
the one who sows bountifully will also reap
bountifully. Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us
in Christ, we have opportunity to share out of our
abundance.

Offering

Offertory

Immanuel - Card

🕯️ 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

Praise be to you, LORD, the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, LORD, is the
greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and
the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over
all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all
things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and
give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name. **Amen.**

 Hymn 128

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon

Be Prepared for Christ's Coming

Dennis Lesher

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Sermon

“The Parable of the Virgins”

Rev. Tim Latham

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 Hymn 239

Jesus is Coming Again

 **Profession of Faith**

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

**What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.


The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.**

He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
**who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh
or of the will of man, but of God.**
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
**and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.**
—John 1:1-5, 9-14, NRSV

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

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

 **Benediction & Blessing**

*This morning's prayer partners are
Bonnie Meccaughey and Dan Obenschain*

 **Postlude** *The Advent of Our God* *Broughton*