

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021**

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

Prelude

*Masters in This Hall
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

*Higges
Smith*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)



Call to Worship

Barb Finch

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,

and grant us your salvation.

Listen to what the Lord our God says:

He promises peace to his people, who are his beloved saints.

The Lord will indeed give what is good.

Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us

in this time of Advent worship.

May we see God's face and so know peace. Amen.



Invocation

Barb Finch



**Hymn 131
132**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory (Vs. 1 & 2) and,
Angels We Have Heard on High (Vs. 1 & 3)*

Lighting of the Advent Candles (*Responsively*)

*Gayle Hammond &
Gerri Reigle*

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

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

—Isaiah 11:6, NRSV

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession

Barb Finch

O promised Christ: We are a world at war.
Our peace depends on your coming.
We are a sinful people.
Our pardon depends on your coming.
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing God's will
is that you should come and help us do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh,
our world waits
for your peace,
for your pardon,
and for your grace.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Barb Finch

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 I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's
mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy
and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper
worship.

Offering

Offertory

Christmas Angels
Pamela Johnson - Flute

Joel Raney

! 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.**

! Hymn 137

What Child is This?

Proclaiming *God speaks to us through His Word*

Children's Sermon *Ready for the Christ of Christmas* *Celia Weber*

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading *Matthew 25:14-30*

25 ¹⁴ "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sermon

“The Parable of the Talents”
Rev. Tim Latham

Responding
We respond to God’s Word


 **Hymn 243** *O Come, Messiah, Come 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** *Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery* *Getty*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of Heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfilment
Of the law, in Him we stand*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could ever restrain Him
Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes
(Repeat)*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

*This morning's prayer partners are
Bonnie Mecaughey and Dennis Leshner*

 **Postlude**

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Birchwood