

**First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022**

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

Prelude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *Broughton*
 Come, Though Long Expected Jesus *Broughton*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*) *Susan 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** (*Responsively*) *Susan Obenschain*

The Lord is glorious and exalted.
Lord, shine in our hearts and lives.
God's people are often in distress and sorrow.
Lord, show your might and deliver us from evil.
We sometimes do not feel the Lord's presence.
O Lord, let your face again shine on us.
The Lord was the shepherd of his people Israel.
Lord, lead us in our way and guide us in our walk.
In this Advent season we stand on tiptoe—
Immanuel, invade our lives. Amen.

 **Hymn 131** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* *Amy Styer & Janet Campbell*

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

[after lighting the first Advent candle]
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.

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession *(Responsively)*

Susan 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

Susan 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.*

Offering

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

Offering


Offertory *To Do, Lord*
Chuck Stauffer, Frank Newby

 **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**

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can, I give him, give him my heart.

 **Hymn 118** *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon *Waiting & Watching* *Dan Baker*

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 8:7-8*

⁷the Lord will certainly bring against them
the mighty rushing water of the Euphrates River—
the king of Assyria and all his glory.
It will overflow its channels
and spill over all its banks.
⁸It will pour into Judah,

flood over it, and sweep through,
reaching up to the neck;
and its flooded banks
will fill your entire land, Immanuel!

New Testament Reading

Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ See, the virgin will become pregnant
and give birth to a son,
and they will name him Immanuel,

which is translated "God is with us."

Sermon

"God With Us: Hope"
Rev. Paul Toms

Responding ***We respond to God's Word***

 **Hymn 124**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

 **Profession of Faith**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.
Who, for us and our salvation,
came down from heaven,
and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

Prayers of the People

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

! *Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Verse 1

*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.*

Verse 2

*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 hellbound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.*

Verse 3

*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 songs to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.*

Verse 4

*Come, behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er 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.*

! **Benediction & Blessing**

*This morning's Prayer Partners are
Carolyn Thompson, Don Titus*

! **Postlude**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Broughton

***Note:** *As an added safety measure during worship, the downstairs entrance doors will be locked after the first hymn (approx. 10:40). Please plan your arrival time accordingly.*