

November 28, 2021

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Introduction

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-2

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Prayer (Unison)

Holy God, we give thanks that many years ago you sent us Jesus to bring hope to the world. By the good news of the Holy Scriptures, you are still bringing hope to people today. During this Advent season, help us get ready to welcome Christ our Savior through acts of charity, kindness and love so that we may be instruments of your hope in our world. Amen.

#HYMN #9 Come, Thou Almighty King

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Almighty God, it is the first Sunday of Advent, the time of preparation for the arrival of our Messiah into the world. What message do you have for us this morning? What divine revelation do you want us to open ourselves up to and receive? What old habits do you need to shake us out of so that we can look at our lives and the world around us with fresh eyes and a new perspective? Be with us now during this time of worship, we pray, to interrupt our normalcy and break us free of the daily routines that limit our thinking and restrain the ways we live out our faith. And after you finally have our attention, make us ready for the hoped for dawn of Christ's advent, so that when he comes at last he may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the transformation of the world that he will bring about. We ask these things in the name of our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray like this. . .

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

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. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Mark 13:24-37 (Bible pages)

SERMON: Standing in Right Field, Waiting Rev. Gagnon

#HYMN O Come, Blessed Savior (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Invitation to Pray and Receiving the Prayer Request Slips
Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer
Organ Response

OFFERTORY

Offertory Invitation
Offertory Music
Doxology (#45 – Old Hundredth)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Almighty God, through your prophets you promised that a day will come when every person on earth will see your justice and righteousness. The world is groaning for that promise to be fulfilled, and until it is we continue to wait and watch. But our redemption is nearer today than it was yesterday, and we want to be ready for its arrival when Jesus returns in glory to reign over us. Until then, may the world experience Christ's presence through the ministry of our church, which is supported by these offerings. Bless what we have given that it may carry on the redeeming work Christ has called us to do. Amen.

#HYMN #130 O Christ, How Shall I Meet You?

BENEDICTION

Pastor: During this season of Advent, let us be alert and prayerful as we look the coming of Christ our Savior.

People: We will ask the Lord to prepare us in the days and weeks ahead as we wait in hope for the birth of God's incarnate Word.

Pastor: In these times of turmoil and tribulation, may we trust that sometimes the Lord must break the world down before a new and better world can be built up.

People: We give thanks that even now God is at work, making sure all things will come together for good, according to God's loving purpose.

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE