

ADVENT

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3, 2023



**TODAY'S OFFERING OF WORSHIP IN CELEBRATION
THIS FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

We gather together...

CHORAL INTROIT: *To You O God, I Lift my Soul*

Rebecca Larson

*To you, O God, I lift my soul. I trust in you; save me from shame.
Let not my foes boast over me. Protect the ones who trust your name.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: *Phia and Allan Waite*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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 God 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 people of God, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD;
and in this light let us worship our God!**

***HYMN** #126: *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

***INVOCATION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

...to hear God's Word...

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: *Come to Us, Emmanuel*

Carol McClure

*Come to us, Emmanuel, Christ whose hope we now await,
Whose birth the prophets did foretell, Come to us we pray. Come to us we pray.
Shine in us, Emmanuel, Christ whose light we celebrate,
Whose birth the prophets did foretell, Shine in us we pray. Shine in us we pray.*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9 (*Old Testament page 694*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 (*Old Testament pages 540-541*) **Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

I Corinthians 1:3-9 (*New Testament page 166*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

*GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13:24-37 (*New Testament page 50*)

The Gospel of our Lord, God's living Word. **Thanks be to God.**

*CONFESSION

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

Merciful God, always with us, always coming:

We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.

**We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
Forgive us, God.**

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us.

Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for Christ's coming.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news of our Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.

Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

**Thanks be to our Advent God, who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*HYMN #143: *Wait for the Lord*

SERMON: *Rev. Todd Johnson*

...and to respond with our lives...

HYMN #123: *How Shall I Receive You (verses 1 and 2)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERINGS TO GOD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

HYMN #123: *How Shall I Receive You* (verses 3 and 4)

HOLY COMMUNION

*Call to Communion

*Affirmation of Faith

THE APOSTLES' CREED: HYMNAL #879

TAKING

Institution

Mystery of our Faith

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

BLESSING

BREAKING: Breaking the bread, pouring the cup.

GIVING: Offering the bread, offering the cup.

...in the places we now go.

COMMUNION ANTHEM: *Call to Advent*

J. Jerome Williams

*O come, O come Emmanuel. And ransom captive Israel. That mourns in lowly exile here.
Until the son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand. Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For, with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.*

***HYMN #121:** *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* (BWV 599)

J.S. Bach

GREETERS: Ron and Judy Hedstrom

READERS: Deeann and Rich Puffert

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Corbin Sheffels

USHER: Jane Leach

COFFEE SERVER: Cinda Madonna

LIVESTREAM: Catelyn Anderson

*Join us after the service for
coffee and conversation,
in the Narthex.*

Welcome!

