

NOV 29 WORSHIP
First Sunday of Advent

L: We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; + Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: Advent is a time of wonder—the wonder of the Promised One. On this first Sunday of Advent we light this candle for hope and we wonder, how do we hold on to hope when so many live in poverty and despair?

C: We light this candle for hope and we wonder. God is our hope!

L: We light this candle for hope, and we know the wonder of the Promised One who gives us the gift of hope even when all seems hopeless.

C: Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight!

ADVENT SONG

Refrain: One, two, three, four,
Candles burning bright to prepare the way
One, two, three, four,
Jesus our Lord Is born this day

One for the angels as they sing, "Glory to Christ the newborn king."
Two for the shepherds, follow them all the way to Bethlehem

Three for the wisemen from afar, guided by a distant star
Four for Joseph and Mary holding the babe so lovingly

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PRAYER OF THE DAY (written by David Eck)

L: The Lord is with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... God of Light,

C: Come and dwell among us. Keep us awake to the many ways you appear in our lives and in our world. Mold us into your image that we might become more and more like you this Advent season. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

FIRST LESSON— Isaiah 64:4-9

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy

cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people. *[NRSV]*

PSALM 80:1-15;18-90

**Refrain: God, draw us closer to you; smile on us once again.
Show us your kindness and keep us safe within your love.**

L: Hear our prayer, Great Shepherd.
You have kept an eye on your flock
Since the time of Abraham and Sarah.

**C: Ruler of the Universe, light the way for us,
Be strong for us, and deliver us from danger! R.**

L: God of Mercy, are you angry with us?
Do you not hear our prayers?

**C: Our tears are the only thing that feeds us these days.
Our cup overflows with sorrow.**

L: It feels like we're fighting with everyone.

C: We are a joke among those who wish to do us harm. R.

L: Master Gardener, we remember
How you transplanted the vine called Israel.

**C: You carried it from Egypt all the way to the Promised Land.
You carefully prepared the soil there and planted it.**

L: Israel took root and grew like kudzu.
It prospered and flourished with deep roots
And strong branches.

**C: So why do we, your prized vineyard,
Now feel so vulnerable and unprotected?
Why do we feel like we've been ravaged by wild animals? R.**

L: Mighty God, we pray that you
Would tend your vineyard, once again.
Take care of that which you have planted
And restore us to former glory.

**C: We promise to be faithful to you.
Breathe new life into our withered branches**

And we will praise your name forever. R.

Psalms paraphrase from "The Psalms: Remixed" by David Eck, © 2011.

SECOND LESSON— 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *[CEB]*

GOSPEL— Mark 13:32-37

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake. *[NRSV]*

SERMON

HARK THE GLAD SOUND

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of His grace,
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring,
with Your beloved Name.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Assistant: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Creator God, keep us watchful for the signs of love, hope, peace and joy that are appearing all around us. May they give us comfort and strength this Advent season. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God those who are really struggling during this pandemic due to illness or economic hardship. Send them the resources they need to bring healing and stability into their lives. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God our church, some of whom are meeting in person today while others are worshipping online. Although we may be divided by distance, we are united in our hearts. Bless us and inspire us as we seek to find new ways to be the church. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God, those who suffer the ills of body, mind or spirit, especially Susan, Vicki, Toni as well as those who we name silently in our hearts. *(Pause)* God of mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray together

C: The Light of God surrounds us; the Love of God enfolds us; the Power of God protects us; the Presence of God watches over us; wherever we are, God is. All is well. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne
from ELW#254, arr. David Eck

BENEDICTION (written by David Eck)

L: May we find time for rest this season. May God fill us with hope. May we create space in our lives for the Christ-Child to dwell. May the Holy Spirit light the way forward.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Shine the light.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA AND GREENERY sign up sheet is in the gathering space. You can help us decorate our church by making a donation in memory or honor of a loved one. Thanks for your support!

Please check out our **ANGEL TREE** to help local kids in need this Christmas. If you are watching online and would like to participate, please call or e-mail Pastor Dave and we can tell you what items are needed. Our church is going to sponsor 10-15 children who attend Oakley Elementary.

CHURCH CLEANERS and **WORSHIP ASSISTANT** sign up sheets are in the gathering space. Please consider volunteering your time. Thank you!

ADVENT ACTIVITY SHEETS are available to download from the church's web site. This year people are encouraged to make their own Advent wreath and follow the daily intentions on these activities pages. There is also an art project, **ADVENT STORY STONES**, to download.