

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Dennis Duda, organ

A REFLECTION FOR PREPARATION

On this first Sunday of Advent, we focus on hope. At its basic level, to hope is to want something to happen or be true. To hope is to recognize that things are not as we wish they were. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, while in prison, said: "The celebration of Advent is possible only to those troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: WATCHER, TELL US OF THE NIGHT

Watcher, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.

Traveler, O a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.

Watcher, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?

Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watcher, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.

Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

Watcher, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?

Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watcher, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.

Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.

Watcher, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.

Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT WREATH CANDLE
THE HOPE CANDLE**

Scripture: Isaiah 60:2

Prayer: O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds so that we may be a people of hope in our world. Amen.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: O God, how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

Unison: We feel as if we are fading like a leaf,

Pastor: that our wrongs, like the wind, take us away.

Unison: There are many days when it feels as if you have hidden your face from us,

Pastor: that we have all become unclean, and that the good we do does not matter.

Unison: But today you remind us that you are our God.

Pastor: We are the clay, and you are our potter.

Unison: We are all the work of your hand.

Pastor: Forgive us, O God. Reshape us, reclaim us.

Unison: Help us to remember you. Help us to remember that we are all your people. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1 – 9

New Testament: Mark 13:34 – 37

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *Always on The Road to Become New*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Advent Credo*

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true:

For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true:

I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God,
the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.**

**It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil
who seek to rule the world—**

This is true:

**To me is given authority in heaven and on earth,
and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.**

**It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted,
who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—**

This is true:

**I will pour out my spirit on all flesh
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions
and your old men shall have dreams.**

**It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind,
of justice, of human dignity, of peace
are not meant for this earth and for this history—**

**This is true: The hour comes, and it is now,
that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.**

**So, let us enter Advent in hope,
even hope against hope.**

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

**Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
Jesus Christ—the life of the world.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: **Make your ways known upon earth, Lord God, your saving power
among all peoples. Renew your Church in holiness and help us to serve
you with joy. Guide the leaders of this and every nation, that justice
may prevail throughout the world. Let not the needy be forgotten, nor
the hope of the poor be taken away. Make us instruments of your peace
and let your glory be over all the earth.**

**Lord God, you hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the
design of your great love shine on the waste of our anger and sorrow,
and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our
homes, and peace in our hearts, in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Pause for private intercessions

**Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;**

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 forever. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *MORE THAN AMAZING* – L. Brewster **Darin Jellison**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: God of restoration and remembrance, we have brought our pain and our hopes, our hurts and our tears. But the words of Paul remind us that these things we have handed to you do not mean that we lack gifts as we wait in hope. You strengthen us in so many ways, and we thank you for receiving all that we are. We ask that you take our gifts and mold them, craft them, shape them into those things that bring your hope to all the world. Amen.

ADVENT COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: *AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE*

*As we gather at your table, As we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; Let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story Till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet How to make Love's victory known.*

*Turn our worship into witness In the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, Bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion To forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image In the world you died to save.*

*Gracious Spirit, help us summon Other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome Those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us Nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels To repeat the sounding joy.*

The Invitation

Communion Prayer

Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup

SPECIAL MUSIC: *REDEEMED* – Big Daddy

Darin Jellison

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE*

*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 descending, Our full homage to demand.*

*Monarch great, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth Christ stood,
Lord of all, in human vesture, In the body and the blood;
Christ will give to all the faithful bread of life for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descending from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.*

*At Christ's feet the six-winged seraphs, Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, God Most High!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Dennis Duda, organ

*Special thanks to **Darin Jellison** for sharing
special music with us this morning.*

*Thanks to **Darin and Noah Jellison** for operating the
live stream camera.*

Blessings!