

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020, 10:00am



Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

**Please also note—due to covid restrictions, even though hymns are played, we can LISTEN to the words, but DO NOT SING, even quietly.**

*Purple was the traditional color of Advent, a color that represents penitence and fasting, as well, as royalty.*

*Purple will continue to be the traditional color of Lent. But for Advent, we shall use deep blue, as other churches have come to do, because deep blue represents the Advent themes of expectation, hope and anticipation of the dawn of Christ. It is the color in the sky before the sun rises, encouraging us to keep watch for the promised light of Christ to break over the horizon, changing night into day. The use of blue has deep historical roots.*

*The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. Traditionally, the wreath is made of four blue or purple candles in a circle of evergreens, with a central white candle lit on Christmas Eve and Day. The meaning assigned to each candle varies by tradition.*

## The Word of God

Prelude: *Veni Emmanuel*

(arr. Pietro Yon)

Please **STAND** as able to **LISTEN** to the hymn—**please DO NOT SING**

The Processional Hymn

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Hymn #65, v. 1, 2, 3

Stuttgart, William Henry Havergal

*Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!*

*Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.*

*Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.*

*Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.*

*His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.*

*Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding.*

*Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace.*

*His tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.*

*All lands will bow before him,  
their voices will adore him.*

*Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.*

### The Opening Acclamation

✠ Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### The Collect for Purity

All **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A † appears in the margin where you may wish to make the sign of the cross over your body. Making the sign of the cross is a choice left to each worshipper.

It is simply a way to engage your entire body (not just your speech and mind) in worship, and physically to signify embracing the blessing of God.

**Deacon/Preacher:** The Rev. Jude Lyons  
**Celebrant:** The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Sunday of Advent

*A family steps forward, one reads, and after this prayer, a member lights the candle:*

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE.

*The candle is lit.*

*"We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield." (Psalm 33:20)*

**People: Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.**

Let us pray together:

**All In you we find our true joy, O God. Let this Advent season be a time to become mindful and alert in service to your people. Open our minds, hearts and hands to receive your transforming grace. We pray through the Christ who is always coming among us. Amen.**

Music—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Pease be seated.*

The First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

1st Reader A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil —  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
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.

1st Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People**            **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

*Qui regis Israel*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.



*Please STAND, as able.*

The Holy Gospel—Mark 13:24-37

† Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

† The Sermon

The Rev. Jude Lyons

*There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.*

*Please STAND as able, and join in saying,*

An Affirmation of Faith for Advent

*Liturgy For The Whole Church, Susan K. Bock*

**We believe in God, who bends and kneels toward our world, drenching it with love, making it new with every breath. We believe in Jesus, God become human, who brought every person a spark of the divine. We believe in the Spirit, hovering God, present among us, abiding, upholding, awaking all things to her grace. We believe we are called to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God and each other, ready for God's reign, awake and alert, as we work to bring it near. We believe we are called, as Christmas comes close, to lift up our hearts in hope and in love, seeking God's advent in each moment and person, each challenge and heartache, each blessing and joy. This we promise to do. Keep us faithful, Lord Jesus, and come soon. Come soon! Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

*The People join in reading the words in bold.*

Our Advent prayers call upon God with our ancestors, the significant people of the Bible that led the way to the birth of Jesus.

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

**God of the prophets, hear us and help us!**

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence in the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace especially in all places of conflict in our world.

**God of the angels, hear us and help us!**

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to bring forth new life into a world desperate for love, hope and opportunity for all.

**God of our mothers, hear us and help us!**

God of Zechariah and Joseph, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

**God of our fathers, hear us and help us!**

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness and anxiety, alone and afraid, light and peace.

**God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!**

God of the Magi, give your church gifts, and the will to find you among the poor and the marginalized.

**God of the Magi, hear us and help us.**

God of John the Baptist, give your church the grace to be a messenger of change and hope, to preach a message of love and peace in wilderness moments.

**God of messengers, hear us and help us!**

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless. For all first responders and members of the armed and foreign services and their families, especially Drew Deley, Michael Herredia, Mark Kappelmann, Maia and Tom Lainis, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve, and their families.

**God of Peace, hear us and help us!**

God of Healing, give hope in your promised coming, especially for those suffering in body, mind or spirit: Andrea, Barbara, Bob and Jane Africano, Claudia, Ceri Falk, Ann Godfrey, Frances Hailwood, Ashley Hawn, Sally Hill, Gale Lovrich, the Miles family, Molly, Marjorie Morris, Karla Nicole, Lisa Rieger, Bruce Schaefer, Anne Sharp, Steve Smith, and all those we name to you now (*please add your own prayers, silently or aloud.*) We pray:

**God of Healing, hear us and help us!**

God of New Life, we pray for all who have died, especially those we name to you now (*please add your prayers, silently or aloud*)... that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

**God of New Life, hear us and help us!**

Let us pray together:

**All** In you we find our true joy, O God. Let this Advent season be a time to become mindful and alert in service to your people. Open our minds, hearts and hands to receive your transforming grace.  
**We pray through Jesus Christ who is always coming among us. Amen.**

### The Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Deacon Emmanuel, we want to believe you are with us dwelling in this and every moment,

**People Yet we catch ourselves longing for the past and rushing toward the future.**

Deacon We want to be found wide awake, alert with love, as you appear in this and every moment,

**People Yet we often slumber through, and laze away the miracle of ordinary days.**

Deacon We want to wait for you alone, and seek your will in all we do, with desire and hope,

**People Yet sometimes our trust fails, our longing grows cold, and our hope dims.**

Deacon We want to make room in our hearts, for you to be born again,

**People Yet we say or do things that hardens our hearts to you and your people.**

Deacon We confess our failure at missing the mark, of not loving from our highest self.

**People We are sorry and we ask your forgiveness as we journey together in this Advent season recognizing our need for you.**

### The Absolution

✠ Celebrant May our Gracious God, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

*Please STAND as able for*

## The Peace

Celebrant May the transforming peace of Jesus Christ be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*Please be seated.*

Welcome and Announcements

# The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

*Hymn #11 Presbyterian Hymn Book*

*O Lord, how shall I meet You, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet You, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly, all that may please You best.*

*Love caused Your incarnation, Love brought You down to me;  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling that led You to embrace  
In love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.*

*A glorious crown You give me, a treasure safe on high,  
That will not fail nor leave me as earthly riches fly.  
My heart shall bloom forever for You with praises new,  
And from Your name shall never withhold the honor due.*

*O Lord, how shall I meet You, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet You, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly, all that may please You best.*

*Please STAND, as able, for*

## The Offertory Prayers

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which the earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation.

**People Blessed be God forever.**

Celebrant Receive, O Lord, these gifts presented by your holy people for the work of your holy Church.

**People Blessed be God forever.**

*Please remain standing for,*

## The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching Our Worship 1, supplement to The Book of Common Prayer)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues. The People read the parts in bold.*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

**From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.**

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

**But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.**

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Glory be to you, O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*All stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues. The People join in reading the text in bold.*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

**To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.**

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

**He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.**

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you.

**Do this for the remembrance of me."**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it,

**do this for the remembrance of me."**

† Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

**In the fullness of time bring us, with St Francis and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

## Invitation To Pray Together The Spiritual Communion Prayer From The National Cathedral

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

Celebrant Let us pray together

**All My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*



## The Communion of the People

*Please follow the instructions of the Ushers.*

## Post Communion Prayer for Advent

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All Holy and eternal God, you have graciously fed us with the Body and Blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## A Blessing for the Advent Season

Celebrant May the dawn of Christ's coming be the joy of your strength. May the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; And may the blessings of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Spirit our Sustainer, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.



## The Sending Forth

Deacon Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God!**

Please STAND as able to LISTEN to the hymn—as before please DO NOT SING!

The Recessional Hymn

*Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us*

Hymn #61, v. 1, 3  
Philip Nicolai, Johann Sebastian Bach

*"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us,  
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:*

*"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"*

*Midnight's peace their cry has broken,  
their urgent summons clearly spoken:*

*"The time has come, O maidens wise!*

*Rise up, and give us light;*

*the Bridegroom is in sight.*

*Alleluia!*

*Your lamps prepare and hasten there,  
that you the wedding feast may share."*

*Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;  
let saints and angels sing before you,  
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.*

*Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:  
through them we stream to join th' immortals  
as we with joy your throne surround.*

*No eye has known the sight,*

*no ear heard such delight:*

*Alleluia!*

*Therefore we sing to greet our King;  
for ever let our praises ring.*

*Postlude: Personent Hodie*

*(arr. David Knight)*