

**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Advent Introit

“Come Light Our Hearts”

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait

Truly our hope is in You

Truly our hope is in You

O Lord of life, our only hope

Your radiance shines on all who look

To you in the dark, Emmanuel come,

Come light our hearts

Lighting the Candle of Hope

[based on Psalm 25:1-10]

In Memory of Fabian Glenn (video)

Prayer for All: People: God of Hope, as we wait for you, please send your Spirit to renew our longing for the days when all will be made right in our relationships with you, one another, and your creation. As we wait for those days, give us eyes to see your faithfulness and ears to hear of your goodness so that our hearts may be humbled and filled with hope for Christ's coming kingdom. In Jesus 'name we pray, Amen.

Preparing for God's Word

Christmas Carols

#113, “Angels We Have Heard On High,” vs. 1

Angels we have heard on high

Sweetly singing over the plains

And the mountains in reply

Echo back their joyous strains

Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

#115, "Away in the Manger," vs. 1

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

#133, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," vs. 1

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O come and behold Him, born the King of angels

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Prayer of Confession

All: Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for so often remaining empty-handed. You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark! You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive us for all those times we didn't say anything at all and should have. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Jeremiah 33:14-16]

Leader: Hear the Good News. "The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah."

People: In those days God says that he will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David to bring justice and righteousness in the land. Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And the name of this branch will be: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Leader: People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me." After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

Hymn of Preparation

#626, "As the Deer"

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You

You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Luke 1: 5-25

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. 7 But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years. 8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. 16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." 19 The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time." 21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. 22 When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. 23 When his time of service was completed, he returned home. 24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 25 "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

Sermon

"Fear Not... The Fear of Disappointment"

Responding to God's Word

Choral Anthem

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
Hymns and Hers

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

[particular prayers]

Leader: Hear our prayer, Lord.

People: Come Immanuel, and fill our lives.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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. 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.

Hymn of Response

#82, "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 every nation,
Joy of every 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.

Benediction

Benediction Response

#155, "Raise a Song of Gladness"

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!

Postlude