



PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Congregational prayer:

Loving God, as we remember with longing the coming of a Savior, give us patience and trust, as we put our hope in you alone. Help us make room in our hearts, for Jesus is our hope. Amen.

CAROL #82 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

**As we worship today,
let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work
in our midst, in our hearts, in our community,
and in all of creation.
Come, Lord Jesus!**

SONG #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

**we trust in the Lord's goodness,
we rely on his mercy,
we find shelter in his steadfast love.**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

**we walk in the Lord's way,
we follow his example of love.
we keep our promises.**



In this Advent season of waiting,

**Lord, forget our sins.
Remember your love.
Remember each one of us.
Remember your people everywhere.**

In this Advent season of waiting,

**Lord, we wait for your salvation.
We wait for your leading.
We wait for your coming.**

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Isaiah 40:1

"Comfort, comfort now my people, says your God."

Beloved, know this:
Your sins are forgiven.
The Lord, Emmanuel, abides with you.
The peace announced by the angels is at hand.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

SONG #247 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 25:6-10 and
Romans 8:18-25

MESSAGE Waiting, Hoping, and Trusting

HYMN #94 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father 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,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.*

HYMN #105 *People, Look East*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21