



PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

[Lighting of the candle]

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.

HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 1-2, 5-7*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Gracious God, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the wisdom of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to walk in hope, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his love. We ask this through Christ, the Lord. Amen.

RESPONSE #507 *Come to the Table of Grace*

ADVENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND CONFESSION

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, remember not 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.**

(silent prayer 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

HYMN #749 *Come! Live in the Light!*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Micah 5:2-5
Luke 2:1-7

MESSAGE Meanwhile...

CAROL #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

MOMENT FOR MISSION Rev. Dr. Amantha Barbee

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