THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 29th, 2026 – 9:30 AM

WELCOME



Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

- ✞ Officiant & Preacher – The Reverend Diane Burkland
- ✞ Liturgists – Joy & Jason Marr

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✞ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Comforting God, **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.**

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ✞ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord! **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#239 - Hark, the Glad Sound!

Prayer of the Day - Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9



1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence— 2 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! 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not
expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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.

[7] 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. [8] Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God!**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Anne Einselen & Luna

We welcome the beginning of this holy season of Advent with great joy. Jesus Christ is the center of our worship and the true light that dispels the darkness at times that surrounds us! We light this first candle of our Advent Wreath that invites us to embrace the true Light of Christ and the hope for our world that Christ brings us! We pray that our hearts and our world may once again be recreated by the power of God that dwells among us! **Amen!**

The First Advent Candle is lighted!

ADVENT HYMN – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



[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; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

[4] **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

[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; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

[17] **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

[18] And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

[19] **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Lift Up Your Heads

Lift up your heads to the coming King.
Bow before Him and adore Him, Sing,
To His majesty let your praises be
Pure and Holy giving glory to the King of Kings.

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HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 13: 24 - 37; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon
will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the
heavens will be shaken.

26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he
will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth
to the ends of heaven.

28 "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. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you
know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will
not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but
only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 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. 35 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, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I
say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord…**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – Where's Jesus in Advent?

The Reverend Diane Burkland

***HYMN*: ELW#242 - Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✞ *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud)*. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Guide our congregation in our search for a shepherd to lead Zion with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Additional Petitions may be offered.)

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to offer, the fruit of our labor and of the skills you have given us. We ask that you use them and us in the service of you kingdom here in this world to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry. And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

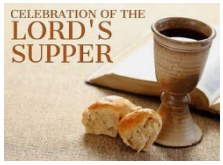
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.

Let us pray: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering, dying an unjust death. We rejoice that in his dying and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of a new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

And hear us as we humbly pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

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, forever and ever. Amen.



On the night he was betrayed, our Lord took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same manner also he took the cup, blessed it and said," This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this cup, do it in remembrance of me."

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. The gifts of God for the people of God. May we partake with thanks.

Invitation to Communion – The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: Jesus, Name above all Names

Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word

Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word

COMMUNION HYMN 2: O' Come Let Us Adore Him

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

For He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy
Christ the Lord

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COMMUNION HYMN 3: I love You Lord

I love You, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, My King, in what You hear,
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear.

I Praise You, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, My King, in what You hear,
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear.

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Closing Prayer - Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Blessing - God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ELW#715 – Christ, Be Our Light

Dismissal: Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted. **Thanks be to God.**

Notes: