

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT November 27, 2016

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting Time

The Prelude

*Opening Songs “Come, Now is the Time to Worship” WT

*A Call to Worship

The Candle of Hope

Leader: We gather around the Advent wreath in anticipation of the coming of Jesus Christ – not as a child in the cradle but as the King of Glory. Let us open our hearts to God during this time of holy waiting.

People: Today we light the first candle, the Candle of Hope. In our times of deepest darkness and despair, we remember Christ came as promised to be the babe of Bethlehem, and we have faith Christ will come again.

Leader: The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: “And again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the nations; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’”

People: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:12-13)

***Invocation Prayer** - O God, we confess it is too easy to be a naysayer rather than a beacon of hope. We regret the times when we have joined our voices with the chorus of negativity and despair rather than speak up-lifting words of comfort and hope. In this time of looking forward to your Second Coming, grant us the grace to look forward with heavenly hope. May this Candle of Hope be lit in our hearts that we might bring hope to those who are living in the darkest of times. We ask this in the name of the Christ-child who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song of Faith “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” 153

Community and Congregational Prayer – 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and glory, forever.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF THE LORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

A Song of Ascent

I rejoiced with those who said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

That is where the tribes go up - the tribes of the Lord - to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel.

There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.

May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”

For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:11-14

*Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

*Responsorial “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

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Invitation to the Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Choir “A Christmas Blessing” *by John Purifoy*

Children’s Message (Children dismissed to Junior Church)

***Scripture and Prayer** **Job 39:1-12**

Message: “Unicorns at Christmas”
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

RESPONDING IN FAITH & SERVICE

***Altar Call of Invitation to Faith and Fellowship** – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God’s forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be baptized, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come to Jesus during this song.

***Song** “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” **pg 160**

***Closing Prayer & Spoken Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand, if able*



MISSION: The vision of West Side Baptist Church shall be that we commit ourselves to continual personal growth, reaching out to win and nurture others in the love of Jesus Christ

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