FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2020

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Preparing for Worship – We are afraid. 2020 has seen the rise of a global pandemic, job loss and economic depression, and overwhelming prophetic anger at racial injustice, plus all the uncertainties and losses of being human on a planet desperately in need of restoration and renewal. Advent is a season of waiting on God's promises of Jesus' Second Coming. As we wait, we offer up our fears to God as we listen for God's comfort in angel voices: "***Do not be afraid!***"

Prelude **"There is a Song in the Air"**
Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening #154** **"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

Call to Worship** ***Wait for the Lord and Hope in His Word

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word, I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

We wait for the Lord and we put our hope in his word.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

We wait for the Lord and we put our hope in his word.

Glory to God the Father, to Jesus the Messiah, and to the Holy Spirit.

We wait for the Lord and we put our hope in his word.

Adapted from Psalm 130:5–7, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Song #180 **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

***Advent Candle Lighting: Hope -** On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope. [Light candle.] Isaiah gives us a vision of a kingdom yet to come where everything has been made new and where creation is at peace. "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:1–3). We light this candle of hope as a sign of our waiting and expectation for the coming Christ.

***Invocational Prayer – Almighty God, from whom all blessings flow and all people wait and search, open our ears, eyes and hearts that we may see clearly your presence among us as we face the anxieties and uncertainties that beset our days. As you sent Jesus at the right time, now we ask, send your Holy Spirit, to be Immanuel – God with us. We pray. Amen.**

Songs of Faith #205 **"Away in the Manger"**
#184 **"What Child is This?**

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

A Reading from the Old Testament **Isaiah 64:1-9**

A Reading from the Psalm **Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 (NRSV)**

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.

Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. You have made us an object of derision[b] to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

A Reading from the Apostles **1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

Responsorial #182 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***A Reading from the Holy Gospel** **Mark 13:24-37**

***Responsorial #185 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**
#188 "Angels, We Have Heard on High"
#189 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Children's Moment **"Jingle Bells"**

Invitation to Give of Our Tithes, Gifts, and Offerings

Offertory **Jan Mauck, Church Pianist**

Message in Song #229 "The First Noel"
#192 "Mary Did You Know"
#186 "Silent Night"

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT 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 follow Christ in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

Song #179 **"Joy to the World"**

***Benediction #218 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

***Postlude**

Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

*Please stand if able

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