

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

*Opening Song (Stand) "People Look East" WORSHIP & REJOICE

*Call to Worship (Stand)

Jesus is Coming! We look to you in our eager longing.

Come to us, Immanuel.

We await your revealing,

Your enthronement in our hearts to reign over us.

Your return to this world to restore creation.

Amen, Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Opening Prayer (Stand)

Song of Faith #176 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

The Lightening of the Advent Candle

Readers: Pat Carpenter and Lonna Hersh

Advent Song "Jesus Messiah" Worship Team

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Laurie Dewey

The First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand) Mark 13:24-37

*Responsorial (Stand) #599 "Soon and Very Soon" ANDRAE CROUCH

*Greeting and Sharing Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)

The Children's Sermon

Announcements & Prayers of the Community

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations - Worshippers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.



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Offertory

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

WE FEAST AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Invitation to the Table of the Lord† (Servers Prepare)

Communion Song #178 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY

Words of Institution and The Lord's 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, the power, and the glory forever.

Holy Communion: The Lord's Supper

Breaking of Bread *The Body of Christ; The Bread of Heaven*

Passing of the Cup *The Blood of Christ; The Cup of Salvation*

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND SERVICE

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 a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

*Closing Hymn (Stand) # "The Blessing" Worship Team

*Spoken Benediction

Postlude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

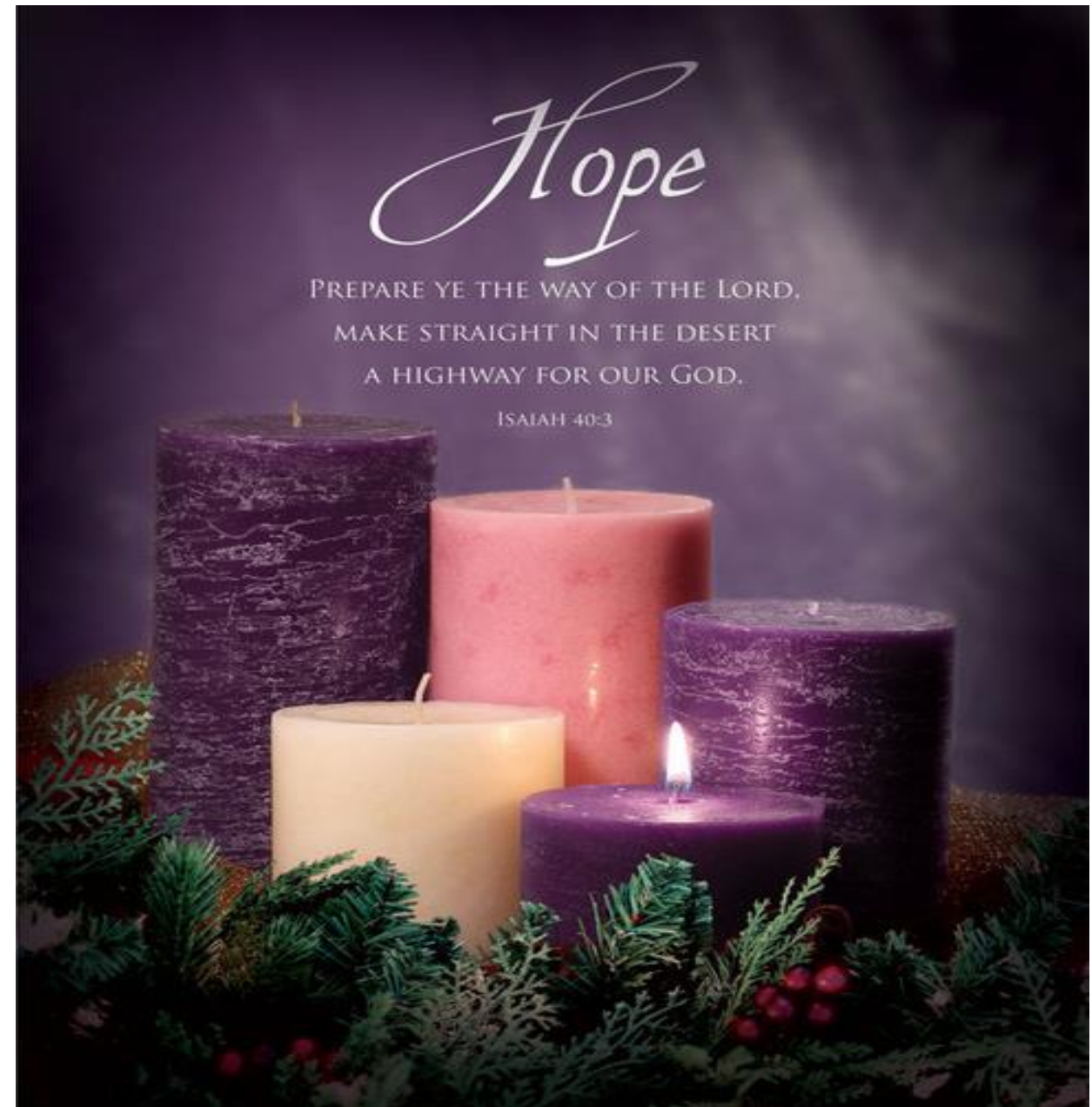
HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) that have hurt God and others. Apologize to God, turn away from harmful behavior, and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer, Redeemer (Savior), and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor or come forward at a congregation meeting. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.

OUR MISSION – We love God and we love people by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation, and World.



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