

**Bulletin for Sunday, November 29, 2020**

***First Sunday of Advent***

PRELUDE

GREETING and WELCOME

TIME of CENTERING PRAYER

CALL to WORSHIP:

L: All creation holds its breath.

**P: The time is almost here.**

L: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

**P: Excitement is all around us**

L: Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form. Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

**P: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.**

HYMN STORY      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATHE

CALL to CONFESSION

The cares of this life weigh us down, and we seek escape more than insight, avoidance rather than confrontation with God’s truth. God comes to us even when we are hiding from the best we know. God waits to hear our story and to restore us to life as it is meant to be. Let us come to God in prayer.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

We confess, amazing God, that our sense of anticipation has been dulled. We have ceased to expect any wonders from your hand. We do not see the marvels around us in the people and happenings we view as commonplace. We are not alert to your presence or your action on our behalf. Wake us up, God, lest sleep be our death. Pardon and redeem us, that we may escape the judgment we are bringing on ourselves. Send your light that it may shine through us into a needy world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

WORDS of PARDON and ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope to us, we are forgiven, healed and enabled to be part of the ministries of compassion in God’s world. Rejoice! You are forgiven! Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING:      “O Holy Night”      Jason Cornish

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

MUSICAL OFFERING:      “Comfort Ye/Every Valley from the Messiah”      Jason Cornish

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 13:24-37

SERMON: *“Company Is Coming Part 1: What a Mess!”* Pastor Warner

PRAYER CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER 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 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN STORY *“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

BENEDICTION

Be people of hope. Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. Share hope by reaching out to those in need. Share hope by listening to someone’s story. Share hope by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need hope to abound in our lives and the lives others. Reflect our hope in Jesus Christ to the world. Amen.

*\*\* Flowers on the altar are given in honor of*