

Worshiping God

November 27, 2022

In Light and Darkness The First Sunday of Advent

**We invite those who are able to stand*

+Childcare is provided for those 4 and under in room 124, Worship Boxes are available in the Narthex for older children.

Centering Words

*Light of the World and Shadow of Safety,
open our hearts and minds to the brilliance of your Word today.
May we receive it as illumination for our journey and a cloud of shelter for our souls. (copied)*

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome to Worship

Prelude

Prepare the Way of the Lord
(Featuring Jeff Joyner, soloist)

arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

Cydney Cavender

Come to worship, all who seek and search for truth and justice.

The light will guide your way to wisdom.

Come to worship, all who wonder, wander, and wait for Jesus.

The light will show you the way.

Come to worship, to find comfort, rest, and peace.

God is in the shadows, find peace under God's wings.

Come to worship, all who seek safety from scary things.

God is in the hiding places, and the darkness is safe.

We gather to worship in light and in darkness.

God is here among us. Let us worship!

Opening Prayer

Dan Koger

*Hymn, 156

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

PUER NOBIS

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh:
awake and listen for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Let every heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the way for God within,
and so prepare to be the home where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For you are our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the fallen sinner stand;
shine out, and let your light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**To you, O Christ, all praises be, whose advent sets your people free;
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore!**

*Passing of the Peace

Dan Koger

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

New Testament Reading (Romans 13:11-14; Pew Bible, p. 867)

Steve Shaw

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness

and put on the weapons of light. Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Advent Candle Lighting – the Candle of Hope

Ariel and Jacob Koger

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place here on earth.

Today we light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us.

Come, hope of heaven! We lift up our heads with expectation. Where will we find you today?

Response

We Light the Advent Candles

NOEL NOUVELET

**We light the Advent candles against the winter night,
to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light.
The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return.
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.**

Morning Prayer

Kim Miller

*Hymn, 158

Blessed Be the God of Israel

PASSION CHORALE

**Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.
Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
a Savior who will lead us to our eternal home.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.
On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinners eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!**

Gospel Reading (Matthew 24:36-44; Pew Bible, p. 756)

Steve Shaw

“But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels and not the Son. Only the Father knows. As it was in the time of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Human One. In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. They didn't know what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. The coming of the Human One will be like that. At that time there will be two men in the field. One will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill. One will be taken and the other left. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know what day the Lord is coming. But you understand that if the head of the house knew at what time the thief would come, he would keep alert and wouldn't allow the thief to break into his house. Therefore, you also should be prepared, because the Human One will come at a time you don't know.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(Featuring Kyle Cook, soloist)

arr. Marty Parks

Sermon

Expect the Unexpected

Dan Koger

Musical Reflection

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Don MacAffee

Thoughts for Reflection

*Where have you met God in unexpected ways or unexpected places?
Are you waiting for God to show up? How? Where?*

*Hymn of Response, 523

Soon and Very Soon

**Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.**

**No more crying there, we are going to see the King;
no more crying there, we are going to see the King;
no more crying there, we are going to see the King;
hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.**

**No more dying there, we are going to see the King;
no more dying there, we are going to see the King;
no more dying there, we are going to see the King;
hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!**

Life of the Community

Prayers for the Gifts We Give

Dan Koger

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church!

*Doxology

PUER NOBIS

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*Sending Forth

Dan Koger

*Response, 178

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

**Emanuel, Emanuel,
his name is called Emanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.**

*Postlude

Emmanuel

arr. Bethany K. Smith

+Childcare: Lori Poston

Flowers?