

First Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. December 3, 2023

Entering God's Presence

Welcome, Life in the Community, and Ritual of Friendship

*Hymn 88 **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (vv. 1-3) VENI EMMANUEL

*Expressing Our Joy The Rev. Vance Polley

Leader: As quietly as the winter steals upon us, the season of joy approaches.

People: We wait for our Redeemer, for God's promise to be fulfilled.

Leader: The day is coming quickly. The God of mercy draws near.

People: Therefore we wait with joy, attentive to all the signs of his coming.

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. (Congregation seated.)

Prayer of Trust and Confidence

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of Our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

God, with unhurried gentleness you draw near us, bidding us lift our eyes to the infinite stars and open them to ordinary wonders all around us. We see the waning sun, the dazzle of holiday display, each other's weary faces, and we know that we have seen this all before. We cannot claim a breathless anticipation of the birth of your Son. From the prophet's good news to the shepherd's joyful witness, we have heard it all before. The season is familiar and holds no surprises. God, remind us that your power and love are both ancient and ever new. Help us to recognize the love borne into the world at each moment. Then with glad hearts may we welcome your Son, before whom even the desert blooms and rejoices.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Musical Response **What Child Is This** (Hymn 145) GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is the Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary!

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

*Hymn 516 **For the Bread Which You Have Broken** KINGDOM

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 597-598 in the pew Bible.]

Anthem **Comfort, Comfort** John Ferguson

Luke 1:5-25 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 52-53 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon **Coming of the Light: John the Baptizer** The Rev. Vance Polley

*The Apostle's Creed (*Traditional Version*, Page 35) and **Gloria Patri** (No. 581)

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Offertory

*At the Presentation **Doxology** (No. 606) OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, concluding with *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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

(All who are baptized are invited to share in *The Lord's Supper*.)

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn 88 **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (vv. 5-7) VENI EMMANUEL

*Benediction

*Going Out into the World

*Those that are able, please stand.