



**Hope**

**December 3, 2023  
First Sunday of Advent**

## Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	“Christ, Be Our Light”	Hays
Welcome		
Advent Candle Lighting	8:30 Amy, Sadie, & Maggie Miller & Josh May 11:00 D Kirk and Judy Higbee	

*“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains  
would quake at your presence—”*

Isaiah 64:1

Let us pray:

**God of Hope, our world has grown cold with despair, with hopelessness, with weariness, and dread. Alight in us the fire of your Spirit, a reminder that death never has the final word, so we might pursue justice and live into your ways and become living hope in a world that desperately needs it. Amen.**

## Songs of Praise

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”	Wayne
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	#61, v. 1
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	#56

## Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you love the world so much you gave your son so we may have eternal life. Yet we confess we often fail to reflect this great love shown to us. We follow the ways of this world instead of your way. We pursue our longings instead of obeying your truth. We serve other masters instead of the crucified and risen Lord. Forgive us for the sins we have committed against you. Renew us for faithful and joyful service. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

## Passing of the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.*

## Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9	Carrie Heins
Time for Young Disciples		Jennie, Henry, & Isaac Wendel
Scripture Reading	Mark 13:24-37	
Sermon	“Beware!”	Pastor Matt

## Responding to the Word

Hymn of Response	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	#61, v. 1, 4-7
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## Affirmation of Faith (from a *Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Offering

### Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below.  
Praise him above ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Communion - Invitation

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Lord's Supper

### Communion Hymn

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

#821

## Prayers of the People

### 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.

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Closing Hymn                      “Soon and Very Soon”                      #482

### Benediction

Postlude                      “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”                      Bish

### Leading in Today's Service

*Worship Leaders:* Pastor Matt, Carrie Heins

*Pianist/Organist:* Anna Nichols

*Worship Music Team (varies):* Beverly Brown, Jim Buckmaster, Pam Carnahan

*Media Team (varies):* Paul Stutesman, Todd Haworth, Wayne Brown, Bruce McCloskey, Bonnie McCloskey, Dorita Reed, Bret Curtis, Dona Hair, Mark Wendt, Barb Pappas, Bob Pappas, Sadie Miller

*Slides:* Lauren Corder, Cathi Hughes

### Next Sunday's Worship - December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11, \*Mark 1:1-8, “The Beginning of the Good News”; Pastor Matt will be preaching.

According to Mark, the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, comes in the form of an odd character announcing the Messiah in the desert. John the Baptist, clothed in camel's hair, and shouting through a beard encrusted with honey and locust bits proclaims that one more powerful than he is coming and calls for the people to repent. The message is clear: preparing for the Messiah means turning from the ways of sin. How can we begin this work anew in our hearts this Advent season?

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