

**SPIRIT OF GRACE**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 27, 2022**

*The congregation's parts are in **bold**.*  
*Thank you for masking while singing to help us worship safely.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**Denise Hobbs**

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING SONG**

**HERE I AM TO WORSHIP**

1 Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made  
This heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

*So here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me*

2 King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

*And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross*

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

**SONG DURING LIGHTING    O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL    ELW 257, verse 1**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

## ADVENT BLESSING

Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Open your hearts and minds to the Good News as it is recorded in Matthew the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor George Hockley*



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Guide our bishops and pastors as they help us be ready for Jesus. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth, in Ukraine, and in all places of war and conflict. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care, especially Deborah, James M., Leila, and Susan L.  
God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission.  
God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us pray together.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit,  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord God, of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this  
heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**



## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

*All are welcome at the table. Hold your hand under the touch-less dispenser to receive the wafer. Return to your seat to eat it. If you would like to receive a blessing only, place your arms across your chest. Please come forward at the direction of the usher.*

## COMMUNION SONG

## WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

1 You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You our Christ

*What a beautiful Name it is  
What a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a beautiful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this  
What a beautiful Name it is the Name of Jesus*

2 You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus You brought heaven down  
My sin was great Your love was greater  
What could separate us now

*What a wonderful Name it is  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a wonderful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this  
What a wonderful Name it is the Name of Jesus  
What a wonderful Name it is the Name of Jesus*

### **Bridge**

Death could not hold You  
The veil tore before You  
You silence the boast of sin and grave  
The heavens are roaring  
The praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival  
You have no equal  
Now and forever God You reign  
Yours is the kingdom  
Yours is the glory  
Yours is the Name above all names

### **Chorus 3**

*What a powerful Name it is  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a powerful Name it is  
Nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is the Name of Jesus*

What a powerful Name it is the Name of Jesus  
What a powerful Name it is the Name of Jesus

CCLI Song # 7068424

Ben Fielding | Brooke Ligertwood

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## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.  
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.  
Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in  
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## **SENDING**

## **BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING SONG**

### **HEAR OUR PRAISES**

- 1 May our homes be filled with dancing  
May our streets be filled with joy  
May injustice bow to Jesus  
As the people turn and pray

*From the mountain to the valley  
Hear our praises rise to You  
From the heavens to the nations  
Hear our singing fill the air*

- 2 May our light shine in the darkness  
As we walk before the cross  
May Your glory fill the whole earth  
As the water over the seas

*Hallelujah hallelujah*  
*Hallelujah hallelujah*

From the mountain to the valley  
Hear our praises rise to You

CCLI Song # 2543402  
Reuben Morgan  
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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Denise Hobbs**

Presiding Minister: Pastor George Hockley  
Music Minister: Denise Hobbs  
Worship Minister: Judy Imbrunone  
Altar Guild: Peggy Dansard  
Acolyte: Leonard Novak



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