

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- HOPE -

Who We Seek to Be

In our love for Christ and guided by God's Word we seek to be a community of

Joyful Worship, thoughtfully centered in the wonder and wisdom of the living God and celebrating the diversity of the body of Christ.

Loving Fellowship, encouraging and serving one another in the unifying love of the Holy Spirit.

Life-changing Learning, biblically-based preaching and teaching to equip children, youth, and adults to grow in their relationship with God.

Enthusiastic Service, reflecting the servant heart of Jesus as we proclaim the gospel near and far in word and deed.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude: Sleepers, Awake!

"Wake up! The Bridegroom's coming!"

Bach/Gerig
JOHN ZIMMERMAN

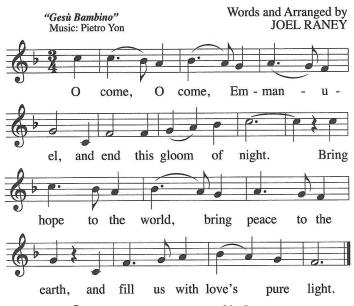
CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

MATHUES FAMILY

Song: Love's Pure Light



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Reader: In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Reader: In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Reader: In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Reader: In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Song: Love's Pure Light (see previous page)

* Invocation

* Opening Song: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hymn 196

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION (Please be seated)

KEN WOLGEMUTH

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

People: we trust the Lord's goodness. We rely on God's mercy. We find shelter in

God's steadfast love.

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

People: we walk in the Lord's way. We follow God's example of love. We keep our

covenant promises.

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting,

People: Lord, forgive our sins. Remember your love. Remember each one of us.

Remember your people everywhere.

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting,

People: Lord, we wait for your salvation. We wait for your leading. We wait for

your coming.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Be comforted and hear the good tidings of the gospel: If any one has sinned,

we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of

the whole world. Believe the gospel and live in peace. Amen.

* SONG OF ACCLAMATION: Gloria Patri (Please stand)

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share God's peace with those around you.)

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

Offering and Offertory: O Come, Redeemer of the Earth Brian L. Hanson

Immanuel Choir

O come, Redeemer of the earth, and manifest Your virgin birth. Let ev'ry age in wonder fall: such birth befits the God of all.

O, Morning Star, come end our night. Cast out our sin and shed Your light. The darkness of our mortal state with endless beams illuminate!

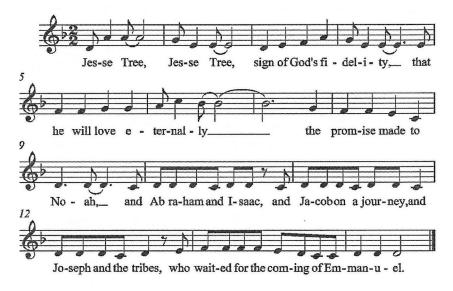
Begotten of no human will but of the Spirit, You are still the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.

All praise, eternal Son, above whose advent shows Your matchless love, whom with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost forever more. Amen.

Doxology

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. JESSE TREE Dennis Newman



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(Children 3 years through 5th grade go downstairs to continue their worship.)

Intercessory Prayer Dan Balzer



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WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please remain standing for the reading of God's Word.)

READERS: DOUG AND BAMBI PENNEY

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:1-5

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

* New Testament Scripture: Luke 1:5-24

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Making Room for Hope

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates! (verses 1-3) Hymn 198

* BENEDICTION

* Postlude

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

¹⁹ The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. NIV

TODAY

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, John Zimmerman, Seth Ehorn, Immanuel Choir

If you have concerns or are **in need of prayer**, elder Ron Netzel will be available to pray with you near the platform.

This Week

TUESDAY 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study (childcare provided)

11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Food pantry open

7:00 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study

SATURDAY 10:00 a.m. Prime Timers meet for a time of singing and fellowship

In Immanuel and Beyond

Adult Ed classes (November 6—December 18): Kent Richter explores "Religions around Us." Diane Jerdan and Cathy Sayer teach *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*.

Advent Devotionals are available in the narthex.

Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 11

All-Church Dinner and Do-It-Yourself Pageant: Sunday, December 18, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 6:00 p.m. **Christmas Day Worship Service:** 10:30 a.m.

ELDERS

Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Ron Netzel, Carl Pickard, Sheroll Ritchie, Leon Sinclair, Gaby Sosa, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth

DEACONS

Phebe Balzer, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehom (Chair), Debby France, Dee Netzel, Tom Nguyen, Katie Pickard, Jack Swanson, Amy Treier, Rebecca Williams

STAFF

George A. Garrison, Senior Pastor, Annette LaPlaca, Minister of Congregational Life; Alva Steffler, Minister of Congregational Care; Mary Hopper, Minister of Music; Annika Durbin, Children's Minister; Anna and Scott Scheidt, Ministers to Youth; Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton