

November 29, 2020 ~ First Day of Advent

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM:

Stephanie Sorge, 29th
Philip Rainard, 30th

GATHERING SONG: No. 314 - "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" - v. 1
and refrain

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SONG OF PREPARATION: NO. 92 – "While We Are Waiting, Come" - v. 1

While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 82 – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure.

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 104 – "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" - v. 1

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly

all that may please you best.
*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 23:1-5 and Daniel 6:6-27

SERMON: "Hope in the Lion's Den"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 847 – "Our Hope, Our Life"

Our hope, our life are in the Lord,
the God we honor and confess.
Why crave renown or opulence?
They fade, those things we now possess.

Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power,
but what they cherish will decay;
and still the ransom for a soul
remains a price too great to pay.

Though wealth or learning may be ours,
or fame that spreads throughout the land,
the shackles of mortality
prevent so much that we have planned.

Beyond this age of shame and sham
we glimpse a better destiny:
the Lord will lift us free from death
to dwell in praise eternally.

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.**

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 709 – "God, We Honor You"

God, we honor you.
God, we trust in you.
God, we worship and adore you.
Take what we bring,
offered to you.
Teach us to show your abundant blessings.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*FINAL HYMN: No. 79 – "Hope Waits for Us at Advent", v. 1

Hope waits for us at Advent. Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment to a land that's kind and just.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world that heals the ones in pain,
Hope is born in us again.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 314 - "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness", refrain

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.



November 29, 2020

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I'd Rather Have Jesus

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