



First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Hyfrodol

Gathering

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, stir up your might, and come to save us!

Reader 2: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Reader 3: As we light this first Advent Candle, Lord God, hear our prayer: Come to us. Into our darkness bring light, to our brokenness bring healing, to our warring ways bring *shalom*, to our death bring life.

All: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**
from Psalm 80

All Singing: **107 "Come Light, Light of God"**
Choir singing once, all joining to repeat

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Hear the cry of the prophet Isaiah: Lord, O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence, and the nations tremble before you.

All: **When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains quaked at your presence.**

Liturgist: From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
Isaiah 64:1-4 adapted

* **All Singing: 61 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**
Singing verses 1, 4, and 7

* GOD’S GREETING

* GOD’S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing: 63 “My Soul in Stillness Waits”**
Singing verses 1, 2, and 3

Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reconciliation

Liturgist: We join in prayer with the prophet: Lord, you meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed.

All: We have all become unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Liturgist: There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

All: Yet, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Liturgist: Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember our iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.
Isaiah 64:5-9 adapted

Silent Confession and Reflection

Liturgist: I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Liturgist: God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 1:4-9 adapted

* **All Singing: 478 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”**
Singing verses 1, 3, 4, and 5

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for your Word, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Help!

* **All Singing:** **439** **“I Love the Lord; He Heard My Cry”**

Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

1. General Fund

2. Benevolence

Choir: “Soon and Very Soon”

by Crouch, arr. Dilworth

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. Hallelujah!
No more crying there we are going to see the King. Hallelujah!
Should there be any rivers we must cross,
Should there be any mountains we must climb,
God will supply all the strength that we need,
Give us strength ‘til we reach the other side.
We have come from every nation,
God knows each of us by name;
Jesus took his blood and washed our sins away.
Yes, there are some of us who have laid down our lives,
All shall meet again on the other side.
No more dying there we are going to see the King. Hallelujah!

Communion

INSTITUTION
THANKSGIVING
INVITATION
COMMUNION

All Singing: **“Until He Comes Again”**

McCracken

Soloist singing verses, all singing chorus

By this we remember in faith as we gather with bread and wine
We remember until he comes again
By this we remember in hope as we gather with bread and wine
We remember until he comes again

When he comes again like a thief in the night
When he comes again all the wrongs will be right
Oh the earth lifted up as heaven comes down
We remember until he comes again

By this we remember in love as we gather with bread and wine
We remember until he comes again

All Singing: **833** **“There is a Redeemer”**

Standing to sing last verse

Sending

* BENEDICTION

Postlude: "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"
from *Christmas Oratorio*

Camile Saint-Saens

Worship Leaders

Organist: Dora Diephouse
Pianist / Vocalist: Erin Pacheco
Flutist: Lynn Hollender
Percussion: Clay Carlson
Choir Director: David Baar
Guest Conductor: Lori Evenhouse
Minister: Roger Nelson

Advent: Dykstra Family
Liturgist: Jim Achterhof
Prayer: Glenn Medema

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)
CCLI Copyright License 813746 | CCLI Streaming License 20253780 | OneLicense A-704612



5825 W 151st Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452
www.hope-crc.org