

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**SUNDAY, November 29, 2020 – 10:00 AM**

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

**WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

**PRAISE**

Call to Worship (unison)

Leader: Advent is upon us, a season of wondering, watching, and waiting

**People: Come into our world, Lord Jesus**

Leader: We look for signs of God's presence around us, waiting for God to come in new ways

**People: Come into our lives, Lord Jesus**

Leader: We wait with hope, peace, joy, and love

**People: Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus**

Leader: Come! Let us worship God who is breaking into our world, our lives and our hearts in new ways!

**People: Come unto us, Lord Jesus, and do something new in us. Amen.**

Hymn:           *Come, O Long Expected Jesus*           #122, vs 1 & 2

1. Come, O long expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
grant us your true liberty.
  
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**THE ADVENT WREATH**  
*The Candle of Hope*

Choir: The sun shall be no more your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon adorn the night.  
But the Lord will be your glory, the lamp to light your way.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light.

All: **Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;  
With radiant hope, illuminate the night.  
Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring,  
Lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.**

The Light of Hope – responsive litany with music underscore

Leader: During Advent, God’s promise illuminates our hope.

**People: On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

Leader: In times of fear, we place our hope in the One who brings peace.

**People: On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

Leader: In times of grief, we place our hope in the One who offers comfort.

**People: On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

Leader: In times of wondering, we place our hope in the One who speaks truth.

**People: On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

Candle Lighting: Lighting the first candle

This morning we light the first candle which reminds us that our hope is the everlasting God who pierces the darkness of this world and reaches into the brokenness of our lives, granting the promise of a new tomorrow.

Congregational Sung Response

Closing Prayer: (after music has stopped)

**Gracious God, as we move from darkness to light throughout our Advent journey, open our eyes to see your unveiled glory. Guide us, we pray, as we join the refrain of faith. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

(Words and Music by Joel Raney, text by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pasto, Emmanuel Reformed Church, Morrison, Illinois.)

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

Gospel Reading: Mark 13.24-37

The Coming of the Son of Man

<sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

### The Lesson of the Fig Tree

<sup>28</sup> “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### The Necessity for Watchfulness

<sup>32</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake!

Message “*Retelling the Old, Old Story*” Pastor Don Francois

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The 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 heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

## **WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD**

Closing Hymn: *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* #122, vs 3 & 4

3. Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!,  
born to rule on earth forever,  
come, be known to us again.

4. By your own eternal spirit  
come to claim us as your own;  
by your all sufficient merit,  
let us share your cross and crown.

Benediction

Postlude