



Open Hearts ~ Open Minds ~ Open Doors

9:00 am

November 27, 2011

10:45 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Advent Sunday

*Somewhere someone is traveling furiously toward you,  
At incredible speed, traveling day and night,  
Through blizzards and desert heat, across torrents, through  
narrow passes.*

*But will he know where to find you,  
Recognize you when he sees you,  
Give you the thing he has for you?*

*.....Is it enough...*

*That we think of him sometimes,  
Sometimes and always, with mixed feelings?*

John Ashbury

Entrance

Prelude — "Hymn of Nuns" .....by Lefebure-Wely

Introit — "Come Thou, Almighty King" .....arr. Dan Bird

\*Processional Hymn No. 203 — "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

\*The Lighting of the First Candle of Advent .....(9:00) Randy, Laurel, Erin & Grant Hickok  
(10:45) Jason Godbey & Shannon Gilbride

Advent celebrates the season of peace.

In the midst of the struggles of our daily lives, God comes to transform our lives.

A voice of one calls in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord. The crooked roads shall become straight and the rough ways smooth."

We light the first Advent candle waiting with open hearts for the Prince of Peace to be born among us.

**Congregation: Praise to the Lord who has come to make a pathway for peace and reconciliation among all God's people.**

*The first candle on the Advent wreath is lighted in silence, followed by the musical response.*

Responsive Hymn No. 211 — "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (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 thee, O Israel.** ♪

Call to Prayer.....Scott Fountain, Lay Leader  
The season of Advent challenges us all to see God's vision of what is yet to be, to hear God's voice calling

anew and to turn our hearts and minds to God's purposes for all of creation. Let us pray:

Prayer of the People

**Unexpected God, your advent alarms us.  
Wake us from drowsy worship,  
from the sleep that neglects love,  
and the sedative of misdirected frenzy.**

**Awaken us now to your coming,  
and bend our fear into your peace.  
Give us ears to hear, O God,  
and eyes to watch  
that we may know your presence in our midst  
during this holy season of anticipation.**

**Raise our heads in expectation,  
that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord  
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns forever and ever.**

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ. God is faithful and will strengthen us in all things. In the name

of Christ, we are set free from old patterns and sent forth to live in God's new light.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*Hymn Response No. 198— "My Soul Gives Glory to My God" (verse 1)

**♪ My soul gives glory to my God.  
My heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways. ♪**

Children's Moment 9:00

*At this time all children are invited to the front of the church to hear a brief message.  
The children will be excused afterwards to attend their Sunday School classes.*

*Childcare is available for infants and toddlers during both services in the nursery located adjacent to the Sanctuary.*

10:45 Children ages Pre-K — 3rd grade may leave for Sunday School.

Greetings and Announcements

*Please register your attendance by clearly printing your **first and last** name in the attendance pad found in each pew, passing the pad to the end of the pew, and then back to the center aisle.*

### Proclamation of the Word

Prayer for Illumination — “Lift Up Your Hearts” .....Emma Lou Diemer

The First Reading — Isaiah 40:1-11 (Pew Bible page 619).....(9:00) Max Fenstermacher  
(10:45) Ann King

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Anthem — “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” .....arr. Paul Wohlgenuth

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending, He.  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race.  
And the babe, the world’s redeemer first revealed his face,  
Evermore and evermore!

The Second Reading— Luke 1:3-7 (Pew Bible page 887).....The Reverend Martha Wingfield

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Preparation No. 196— “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

The Sermon — “The Christmas Conspiracy: John the Harbinger”.....The Reverend Martha Wingfield

### Response to the Word

\*Affirmation of Faith -Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary  
suffered under Pontius Pilot,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Choral Call to Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer

\*Greeting — Offering Signs of Peace & Reconciliation

The Offering

Offertory — Sinfonia "God's Time is Best".....by J.S. Bach

\*Doxology No. 94

♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪**

Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, every breath we take is a gift from you. We would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others be alert for your presence and to value life in all its fullness. We dedicate these offerings as symbols of our thankfulness and devote our lives to your purposes. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Consecration No. 192— “There’s a Spirit in the Air” (verses 1, 2, 5, 6)

### Sending Forth

\*The Light of Christ Leads Us Out Into the World

\*The Benediction

Choral Benediction — “Go Forth, Now, and Praise Our God” .....Emma Lou Diemer

\*The Postlude — “O Had I Jubal's Lyre" .....By G.F. Handel (edited by Diane Bish)

*\*Indicates that you are invited to stand.*

**TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE**