



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Mary and Kevin Young

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

HYMN #92 While We are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we light our advent candle

Light of the world, shine on us.

As we prepare for Christmas time

Light of the world, shine on us.

In this world of pain and darkness,

Light of the world, shine through us.

To all the people who don't know you,

Light of the world, shine through us.

Jesus you are coming again,

Light of the world, light the way.

In our service here today

Light of the world, light the way.

***HYMN #82** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. 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.

2. 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS

It is so easy for us, Lord, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives. We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains. And in our anxiety, we act out our fear in ways which are not helpful and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live. We feel the pressure to give, and resentment in giving. We feel the push to be present at every upcoming event, and want to run and hide. Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope. Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us – guiding, healing, loving, encouraging us. Forgive us for our fears and our stubbornness. Bring us again to your light, for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING

... Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 25:1-10

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN #104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a-right?

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.

2. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

3. You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still
In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 21:25-36

SERMON Waiting Hopefully

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Because of you, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May you use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS *(please hold the bread and then the cup until we all commune together showing our unity in Christ.)*

UNISON PRAYER

Jesus, you truly are Emmanuel “God with us.” In this season of hope, may the meal we`ve shared together nourish us to be your body in the world, your kingdom come, your will done on earth as it is in heaven. With the angels in heaven we join in singing your praises, Glory to God in the highest.

Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN #100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

2. Thou I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy shall last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. Refrain

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. Refrain

4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. Refrain

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, December 1, 2024 - First Sunday in Advent

This week's carillon is in memory of Charles and Jennie Kirk. Charles and Jennie lived in Forest Grove and were faithful members of the church and parents of DeNard Kirk.

WELCOME JEN AND HAZEL STEPHENS: who are our guest musicians this week. Thank you Jen and Hazel.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ALLIES INDIVIDUALS: Congregation members are invited to participate in giving gifts to disabled adults who receive services at Allies, Inc. A list of individuals and their "wish list" items is available on the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. Please sign out the gift. Gifts are to be wrapped including a gift tag with the name of the recipient. Please do not put the gift description on the tag. Gifts are to be brought to the church no later than December 9. There will be requests for only one gift per person. This change is due to the large number who need gifts. Please consider supporting more than one individual.

ALL PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: This will be held this Wednesday, December 4 at 12 noon. Please contact the Church office at 215-794-8575 if you will be joining us. Family and friends are also invited.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: We will celebrate decorating our church on Sunday, December 8 following our worship service. Join us and help hang all the greens and decorate our Tree.

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER FOR SUMMER MISSION TRIP: Come and make a Gingerbread House on December 8 following worship. The Youth Group will be traveling to West Virginia this summer to help rehab the homes of low income individuals and families. As they will be working on houses then, how about working on a "house" now for the holiday season. Gingerbread house kits will be provided along with decorating treats. You can make your own or get a Youth Group member to work with you. **The Gingerbread house itself will be assembled. You will just need to decorate.** The group will also be providing a light lunch. There is a minimum donation for Gingerbread houses of \$25, lunch – free-will offering. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you plan to join in this seasonal fun!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for the following items: Canned Soups, vegetables, and Fruit. Ready to eat prepackaged Jell-O and Puddings. Donations are to be placed in the wagon found in the vestibule.

This week's calendar of events:

December 1	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday school followed by Coffee Hour.
	4:00 pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service
December 2	9:30 am	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 71 Meeting
December 3		Set up for our Christmas Luncheon tomorrow
December 4	12:00 pm	ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Elder of the month: Bill Wark **Deacon of the month:** Maggie Realley
Ushers: Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz **Communion Servers:** Maggie Realley
Coffee Hour Hostess: Vini Christie



Church Staff
Susan Fall, Pastor
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

