

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION, PROMISES, AND PRAISE

(We invite you to quiet yourself in preparation for the worship of God when you hear the prelude music.)

Almighty God, as we gather in your house to worship, quiet our hearts and calm our spirits from the rush of life and the, often persistent, troubles of our world. As those who sought to know Jesus in the first century, we, too, “want to see Jesus” in our day and in our life more and more. O God, let it be for us today as we gather to worship You. Amen.

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SHARE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Prelude “Creator of the Stars of Night” arr. McCabe

Call to Worship Rev. Don Hardman

Leader: You know what time it is,
how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.
For salvation is nearer to us now
than when we became believers;
the night is far gone, the day is near.

People: Let us then lay aside the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.

Leader: Come, let us worship God. —based on Romans 13:11-12

*Hymn “Comfort, Comfort You My People” insert

*Prayer of Adoration

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the Good News! The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! —Psalm 145:13-14

*Gloria Patri No. 579

(Let the children come forward during the singing of the Gloria.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle Mary Thornhill & Helen Thompson

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Children’s Time Rev. Don Hardman

Children’s Worship is provided for ages 4–3rd grade in Room 205. Parents, please escort your children to this room.

*Hymn of Preparation “Blessed Assurance” No. 693

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 1:23 Page 956

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem “Come to Set Us Free” Larson

Scripture Lesson: Romans 15:4, 13 Page 1125

Sermon: “The God of Hope” Rev. Don Hardman

RESPONSE IN DEDICATION AND OBEDIENCE

Prayers of the People of God and Our Lord’s Prayer

*Affirmation of Faith “The Apostles’ Creed” Page 742

Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” arr. Martin

*“The Doxology” No. 731

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to our Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

(Take the bread as served; hold the cup to take together.)

*Hymn “Here I Am, Lord” Supplement No. 47

Benediction “Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.”

Postlude “Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending” arr. Vaughan Williams

*The Congregation is asked to stand, as you are able.

CALENDAR

Today, 12/3 - Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am; Diaconate Mtg., 12:00 pm
Monday, 12/4 - Church office closed on Mondays; Roanoke Valley Choral Society Concert, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, 12/5 - SIBS (Sisters in Bible Study), 9:30 am; Men’s ZOOM Bible Study, 12:00 pm; Adult Bible Study (ABS), 5:15 pm; Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, 12/6 - Feast @ First. 6:00 pm; Youth Group, 6:30 pm; First Kids, 6:30 pm; Carillonners, 7:00 pm
Thursday, 12/7 - Men’s Breakfast, 7:00 am.; Staff Mtg., 10:00 am
Friday, 12/8 – Prayer Mtg., 10:00 am

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REMINDERS

Elders: Don Andree, Phil Brown
Sound System: Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown
Greeters Ramp Room (8:50-9:00 & 10:00-10:30): Dec. 3 - Sue Brown, Kaye Ward
Dec. 10 - Nancy Poore; Dec. 17 - Bob & Donna Broyles; Dec. 24 - Don & Wendy Andree; Dec. 31 - Bud & Jesse Derey
Greeters Narthex (10:00-10:30): Dec. 3 - Martha Minter; Dec. 10 - Barry & Anne Webb; Dec. 17 - Ron & TK Sharpley; Dec. 24 - Ed & Debbie Bennett; Dec. 31 - Helen Thompson
Deacons on Duty: Dec. 3 - Marlene Flynn, Brenda Edwards; Dec. 10 - Lynn Wimmer, Susan Blanding; Dec. 17 - Donna Broyles, Pat Guerrant; Dec. 24 - Helen Thompson, Carolyn Keyes
Acolytes: Dec. 3 - David Bean; Dec. 10 - Emma & Kylie Woolard; Dec. 17 - Bryleigh Trevett; Dec. 24 - Elizabeth Rice; Dec. 31 - David Bean
Children's Worship: Dec. 3 - Advent 2, Mary and Joseph Show the Way to Bethlehem - Leader, Deborah Mattern; Greeter: Chris Ayers
Dec. 10 - Advent 3, The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem - Leader, Deborah Mattern; Greeter; Jeff Povtak
Dec. 17 - Advent 4, The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem - Leader, Deborah Mattern; Greeter; Pat Povtak
Dec. 24 - How the Church Tells Time - Leader: Missy Reed; Greeter: Mike Trail

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PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK: - Pray for persecuted Christians. Heb. 13:3; Ps. 12:5; Rev. 13:10; Ps. 74:21

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PCC Food Needs - December - Beef Stew

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Hearing devices are located in the Narthex to assist in listening to today’s service

Pastor: Rev. Don Hardman
Director of Music & Children’s Ministries: Mrs. Patricia K. Trail
Director of Youth & Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard
Organist: Mr. William Turner
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose