

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
Order of Worship for the First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Minute for Mission: Rosemary Sprague

Welcome

We Approach God

Lighting of Candles in the Advent Wreath

Willoughby Family

We light this candle as a sign of the light of Christ that shines for all. Advent means arrival. We are preparing for the arrival of the risen Lord Jesus. We are preparing ourselves for the days “when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

Call to Worship

Come, all who seek truth, let us go up to the Lord’s house, that we may learn God’s ways and follow right paths.

Come, all nations and peoples, stream through open gates, that we may gather in the hallways of justice, the courts of peace.

Come, children of God, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

With hope in our hearts, let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert, watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Glory to God 88

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.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; And teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Confession

We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you set before us the way of goodness and beckon us to follow you, but sometimes we disregard your teachings and disobey your word. You call people of every land to dwell in harmony, but we sow division and harvest discord. You command us to craft tools that sustain life, but we cling to weapons that damage and destroy. Forgive us, Lord. Your creation yearns for wholeness. Your people long for justice and peace. Keep us ever watchful and awaken us to your ways, as we wait in hope for the light of the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain made low, and the rough places shall be made clear. The glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled through Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray in his name. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 80

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson Luke 1:1 – 25

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Hope Is on the Horizon" The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith Adapted from *The Confession of 1967* 9.19 and 9.27

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to God's people Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. ...

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Invitation to the Offering

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal the new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Dear God of our salvation, we rejoice in your steadfast love. You lead us by your Holy Spirit in paths of righteousness and peace. Draw us closer to you and teach us your way. May our thankfulness overflow in generosity to friends, neighbors, and strangers. Extend the reach of our congregation so that these offerings will help others learn of your goodness and mercy. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer. Amen.

God Sends Us into the World

Hymn of Dedication

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Glory to God 347

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ power God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the light of light descended from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell made vanish as the shadows clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: “Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Lord most high!”

Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction

Dr. Anderson