

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT: HOPE

Sunday, November 29, 2015

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

THE CHIMES

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship."

THE OPENING SENTENCEDiane Lipsett

One: The hope of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

†THE PRELUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come" *arr. Paul Siefert*
Lauren Winkelman, organ

THE INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYERDiane Lipsett

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 133

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *VENI EMMANUEL*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE..... Jonathan, Robyn, Davis, and Virginia Ann Churn

One: Our hope begins with a baby's tender cry in a lowly manger,

All: And God is with us in the joys and sorrows of this world.

One: Our hope is secured with a young man's cry of forgiveness on a cruel Roman cross,

All: And God is with us in the darkness of our own sinful hearts.

One: Our hope is fulfilled with a triumphant cry of return by the King of Kings,

All: And God is with us and shall reign forever and ever!

One: As we light the Candle of Hope on this first day of Advent,

All: May it remind us to live out our hope in preparation and expectation.

One: For this gentle savior born to us in a dirty stable

All: Will return as the strong and mighty Lord of Lords,

One: To right every wrong,

All: To dry every tear,

One: To heal every wound,

All: And satisfy every longing heart.

One: Even so, quickly come, Lord Jesus!

All: O come, Emmanuel, come!

~Mary Hix

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"A Candle of Hope"*Kenneth A. Wilson*

The Chancel Choir

*A candle of hope gives new light to lift our hearts, and cleanse our sight.
That we may know the shining form of Spirit's grace in us newborn.
Wise ones were led by star above, we look in hope at candle's gleam,
That we may prove the wisdom of Mary's song and Joseph's dream.*

~Ben Ellis

*Those who are able will stand.

† Ushers will seat those waiting.

Hearing aids and large print hymns are available from the ushers.

CONFESSING OUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison).....Lucrecia Norman
God of hope, we confess that in our comfortable and self-sufficient lives, we find it easy to see hope as nice, but not essential to our survival. We confess that we too often place our hope in healthy bodies, financial security, stable relationships, or the good life we have built for ourselves. Have mercy on us, loving God. Have mercy on us. Remind us that our kind of hope will not withstand the wrecking ball of this world that swings just offstage in the shadows. Show us how to live a life grounded in the certain hope of your love, your birth, and your return.
~Mary Hix

THE SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16Lucrecia Norman
One: This is the word of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13..... Sam Seifert
One: This is the word of God. Deacon of the Week
All: Thanks be to God.

THE CHILDREN’S TIME Bob Setzer, Jr.

THE CAROL

“The Angel Gabriel”..... arr. Carl Schalk
The Chancel Choir; Lisa Sykes, mezzo-soprano
*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady.” Gloria!*
*“For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady.” Gloria!*
*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.” Gloria!*
*Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!*

*THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 21:26-28, 32-36Jesse Sorrell
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

*THE HYMN OF DEVOTION, NO. 135
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”..... HYFRYDOL
Following the first stanza, children who are in first grade through third grade are invited to meet the Children’s Worship leaders in the narthex.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLEDiane Lipsett

THE ANTHEM

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”..... arr. André Thomas
The Chancel Choir
*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children don’t get weary, ’til your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.*

THE SERMON Bob Setzer, Jr.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself at this time. If you prefer not to present yourself, you may speak to one of the ministers after the service to effect membership. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to renew their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

***THE HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP, NO. 139**

"To a Virgin Meek and Mild"..... LO DESEMBRE CONGELAT

THE PASTORAL GREETING..... Bob Setzer, Jr.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Sam Seifert

THE SERVICE OF GIVING

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

"Who Would Send a Baby?"..... Mary Kay Beall

Maggie Gallagher, soprano

Who would send a baby to heal a world in pain? Who would send a baby, a tiny child?

When the world is crying for the Promised One, Who would send His Only Son?

Who would send a baby to light our world with light?

Who would choose a manger to cradle the King? Who would send angels to sing?

Who would hang a star in the sky above To shine on the gift of His infinite love?

Who would send a baby to bless the world with peace?

***The Presentation and Doxology**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

***THE BENEDICTION..... Bob Setzer, Jr.**

***THE CHORAL BENEDICTION**

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall Come"..... VENI EMMANUEL

The Chancel Choir

***THE POSTLUDE**

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"..... arr. John Ferguson

Lauren Winkelman, organ

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Today is the First Sunday in Advent. This morning's candle-lighting liturgy and prayer of confession were written by Knollwood member Mary Hix. We welcome new members Jonathan, Robyn, Davis, and Virginia Ann Churn as the Advent candle lighters.

Appreciation is expressed to Lisa Sykes and Maggie Gallagher for sharing their musical gifts this morning.

ABOUT OUR BANNERS

Each Sunday during Advent, a new Advent banner will be introduced. The adding of a banner each Sunday is meant to add to our anticipation and joy as the coming of Christ child draws near. The banners will explore, in sequence, the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love.

The first banner of the series is the banner of "Hope." The image of the sprig coming forth from the stump is from Isaiah 11:2: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Advent hope is God-based hope, hope that springs from the barrenness of a past that holds no promise in itself. In time, the figure of the "stem of Jesse" or the "righteous branch" of Jeremiah 33:15 became associated with the hope of the Messiah. Christians believe this hope, this promise was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. The artist for the series is our own Bambi Setzer.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of David A. Carmichael, Sr., by the Hoagy Carmichael family and Shirley Key.

PLEASE REFER TO P. 32 FOR ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.