

Service for the Lord's Day

1st Sunday in Advent, December 3, 2017

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome (Please sign the friendship pad)

Introit *The People Who Walked in Darkness* Sally Ann Morris

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *Lou Merritt and Julian Espana*

He Came Down Cameroon song

He came down that we may have hope, he came down that we may
have hope he came down that we may have hope. Hal le lu jah for ev er more.

Unison Prayer

Lord as we look to the birth of Jesus, grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us. Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming, for Jesus is our hope. Amen.

*Hymn 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

*Facing Our Sin and Trusting God's Grace

Merciful God, always with us, always coming, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

(*All who are able may stand.)

*Kyrie (Hymn 88 v.6) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Passing of the Peace

Passing the peace is more than a greeting. It is a ritual acting out of Jesus' call to love and forgive others, as we have been loved. We offer God's peace to one another in the ancient words of the church: "The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you."

*Response to God's Grace (Hymn 86 v.1) *The People Who Walked in Darkness* ISAIAH 9

**The people who walked in darkness awaken to see a great light.
The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow rise to a star shining bright.
His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Father forever, Prince of Peace.
Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Father forever, Prince of Peace.**

PROCLAMATION

Message for Children *This is Where Children Belong* James Ritchie

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng,
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer and song; This is where children belong.**

(No Children's Chapel today)

Anthem *Come, Messiah, Come* Lynn Bailey and Becki Mayo

Gospel lesson: Mark 13:24-37 Pew Bible, NT, page 47-48

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed *Betty Connette*

RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed* (pg. 35 in front of hymnal)

Reception of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Wilbur Held

*Doxology (Hymn 607)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore:
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

WE GATHER AT OUR LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn 501

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

The Invitation to the Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Words of Institution

The Communion of the People

(It is the custom of our church to hold our bread and cup until all are served.)

Prayer After Communion

God, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, we thank you for preparing our spirits through these gifts of the bread and cup. As we go out into the world this week, help us to look to the future before us and live as people of hope. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

Worship Notes

Acolyte:

Will Fischer

Ushers:

Denise Weeks, Henry Burke and the Fischer Family

Worship Leaders:

Betty Connette, Janet Cherry, and the Chancel Choir

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