



# Sunday, November 28, 2021

## First Sunday of Advent

### Introduction

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Our Lord's contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

### Advent Candlelighting

Choral Introduction (Choir)

## FIRST SUNDAY - WAIT

*Responsive Litany*

*Advent is a time to wait.*

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

*Candle Lighting*

This morning we light the **first candle**. The first candle reminds us that, as we wait upon the Lord, God's light never ceases to shine, God's will never ceases to unfold, and God's grace never ceases to be felt. As we begin the journey of Advent, may we learn to wait upon the Lord with hopeful expectation by celebrating all God has done and anticipating all he will do.

# "We Wait In Hope" (Choir and Congregation)

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:  
Refrain

We wait in hope \_\_\_\_\_ for the morn - ing Light,  
for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate \_\_\_ the night. \_\_\_  
We wait with joy \_\_\_\_\_ for the Sav - ior's birth;  
we wait in hope for peace on earth.

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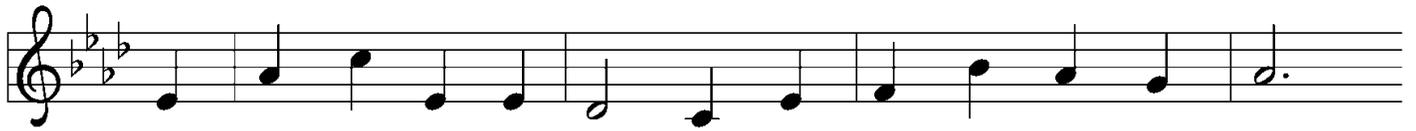
## Closing Prayer

God in heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience, endurance and trust. Holding to the eternal promises revealed to us through the power of your Word, we ask that you remind us of your everlasting presence.

**Amen.**

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## Gathering Hymn....."Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907  
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and

abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

## **Choir Anthem....."An Invitation for Advent"**

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Contributors: Ruth Elaine Schram

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### **Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord

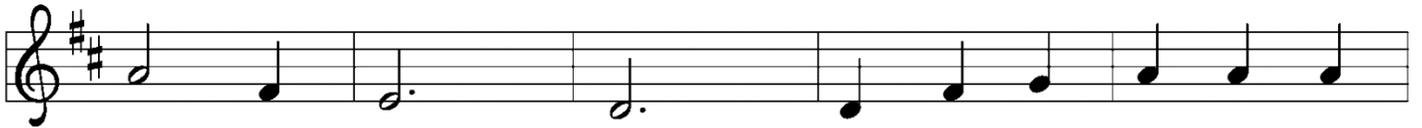
**Praise to you O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

# Sermon Hymn....."I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

**Amen**

## Prayers of Intercession

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all who are sick (*especially Joyce, Don, Fred, Barbara, Victoria, Christi, Larry, Kristina, Dominic & Megan, Vicki, Peter, Joe, Dave & Joy, Michelle, Gloria, Jay, Sharon, Michael, JJ, Larrie, Ellen, Elijah, Maryann, Donna, Darell, Richard, Robin, Henry, Ron, Lisa, Ruth, Karen, Ardie, James, Peter, Dorie, Nancy and Gavin*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory (*especially Nancy*). Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light, and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

#### **Offering Prayer**

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **Invitation to the Table**

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **Distribution**

*At this time take the elements you have with you saying these words:*

**The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Sending Hymn.....“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

VERSE



1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and



peo - ple free; From our fears \_\_\_ and sins re - lease \_\_\_ us,  
 yet \_\_\_ a King; Born to reign \_\_\_ in us for - ev - er,



let us find our rest \_\_\_ in Thee. Is - rael's strength \_\_\_ and  
 now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own \_\_\_ e -



con - so - la - tion, hope of all \_\_\_ the earth \_\_\_ Thou art;  
 -ter - nal Spir - it rule in all \_\_\_ our hearts \_\_\_ a - lone;



Dear \_\_\_ de - sire \_\_\_ of ev' - ry na \_\_\_ tion,  
 By \_\_\_ Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,



joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.  
 raise us to \_\_\_ Thy glo - rious throne.

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## Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**