ORDER OF WORSHIP

**November 28, 2021 | 1st Sunday of Advent | 9:00 AM**

(**+** = stand if able; L = Leader / C = Congregation)

(blue and green are hymnal colors)

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *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.” Jesus’ 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 Christ in word and supper.*

**CANDLE LIGHTING – The Candle of Hope**

L: The Lord is our strength and shield.

**C: God protects and delivers us from all harm.**

L: Our hope is in God, the One who protects and delivers. God is the light shining through the darkness, leading us into a new future.

**C: God delivers and rescues, God works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for God has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.**

L: O come, O Dayspring from on high. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death’s dark shadows put to flight. We light this candle as a reminder to stand firm in hope.

God of Daniel,

**open our eyes to see your Kingdom breaking into our own. Strengthen our trust in your promises and help us to locate our hope in you. May the light of this candle be for us the light of the sunrise breaking into our dens of lions, our dens of fear and anxiety, our dens of darkness and death. And may we, who have seen your light in the darkness, proclaim the hope we have in you to this weary world. Amen**

Song #41 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1 & 2)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

who alone does wonders,

who lifts up the lowly,

who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

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

***Silence is kept for reflection***

L: God for whom we wait,

**C: 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.**

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

+**HYMN #28 (Green)** Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 1-3, 7)

**GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also, with you.**

**+ Kyrie** pg. 57 (Green)

**+ Hymn of Praise** pg. 58 (Green) *Glory to God…*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C: 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**

14The 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. 15In 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. 16In 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.”

SECOND READING: **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

9How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.  
  11Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13And 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.

**ACCLAMATION (pg. 62)**

**(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

L: The Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 13

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

GOSPEL: **Luke 21:25-36**

[Jesus said:] 25“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. 26People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”  
  29Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.  
  34“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, 35like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36Be 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.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

**+C**: Praise to you, O Christ

Choir **Anthem –** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Joseph Tiegen

+**HYMN #725 (Green)** Blessed Be the God of Israel

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**+ APOSTLE’S CREED** pg. 65 (Green)

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**pg. 75(Green) *Create in me a clean heart…*

THE PRAYERS pg. 65 (Green)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words: “Lord in your

mercy…” The people respond: Hear our prayer.”)

**+ THE LORD’S PRAYER** pg. 71 (Green) (right hand column)

**SENDING**

**COMMUNITY WORD**

**+BLESSING**

L: May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.

**C: Amen.**

+**HYMN #33 (Green)** The King Shall Come

**+DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Devotions for the week of November 28, 2021

***SHARE:***What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

***READ*:** **Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:**

**Monday**, Psalm 90, Prayer for life from God

**Tuesday**, John 1:35-42, Jesus calls Andrew

**Wednesday**, Luke 11:29-32, The coming of the Son of Man

**Thursday**, Luke 1:68-79, God’s Tender Compassion

**Friday**, Malachi 3:13-18, Those who serve God

**Saturday**, Luke 9:1-6, The Mission of the Twelve

***TALK:* Consider some of these ideas:**

*So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. –Luke 21:31*

In the midst of apocalyptic type language in our text for the day, Jesus tells his followers that the kingdom of God is near. This was 2000 years ago, and we are still here. Instead, this is language that can be used for the current hour rather than some far off time.

* **What do you think it means in your life for the kingdom of God to be near?**
* **Where is the kingdom of God?**
* **How is God’s kingdom present in your life today?**

***PRAY***: Almighty God, we pray for the coming of your kingdom. We thank you for the promise you have made through your Son Jesus Christ that you are ever present, now, and always and that your reign will have no end and will present itself to us once again. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***BLESS****:* The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.