



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A way through

“Prepare the way of the Lord,” cried John the Baptist in the wilderness, echoing the prophet Isaiah’s cry centuries earlier: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God” (Isaiah 40: 3-4). It’s no wonder ancient followers of Jesus were known as the **People of the Way** (Acts 9:2).

From the earliest of times, wending the way pioneered by Jesus consisted of lives built on transformative practices of **hope, peace, joy, and love in the world**. These practices have included forming countercultural communities of economic sharing or mutual aid, participatory worship, scripture study, compassion for society’s most vulnerable, and subversion of the idolatries of the empire. This is the ancient path that calls us as we anticipate and celebrate Jesus’ arrival, an arrival that has already happened, and yet is always on its way.

December 1, 2019

Worship 9:30am

Sunday School 10:50am

GATHERING IN THE LIGHT OF HOPE

PRELUDE

Carol Buller, organist

REFLECTIVE CALL TO HOPE

David Stewart and Eva Parsons

“Hope is the thing with feathers,” wrote Emily Dickinson, “That perches in the soul—And sings the tune without the words—And never stops-at all.” Poet Maya Angelou wrote this about birds and hope: “The caged bird sings -with a fearful trill -of things unknown-but longed for still-and his tune is heard-on the distant hill-for the caged bird sings-of freedom.”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Creator of the Stars of Night

Jeff Janzen, soloist

Questions for reflection, as the light is brought in:

What fearful trills do we hear today? What hope or freedom is longed for still?

*HYMN #1 SS

Praise the One who breaks the darkness

LISTENING FOR AND LEARNING ABOUT HOPE

CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

SUNG RESPONSE:

5 Light one can-dle for hope hope that the whole world needs.

Light one can-dle for hope hope that the Sav-ior will bring.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON

Getting in the way of....hope

*HYMN #182

Oh, how shall I receive thee

RESPONDING AND SHARING IN HOPE

COMMUNION

Please come forward by the center aisle, take the bread and dip it in the cup of juice. Return by the side aisle. To receive a blessing in lieu of partaking in the bread and cup, please present yourself with hands folded. Gluten free crackers and grapes are also available.

PRAYER #127 SS

CHILD DEDICATIONS (see insert)

Hazel Lynn Rushing
Lucy Ida Jean Hawkins

SHARING JOY

We welcome the introduction of guests and visitors during this time. One way we get to know one another is by signing the friendship registers. Once the register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

Slips of paper are available in the pew racks for those who wish to offer joys and concerns silently and anonymously. These papers, if put in the offering plate, will be placed in the prayer bowl table at the front of the sanctuary.

OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you did not have time to submit a written announcement, or if something new needs highlighting, please hand your written announcement to the worship leader or pastor before the worship service.



Children in K-5grades are dismissed for WorshipArts (Room 114), a time for children to respond to worship, ask questions, and learn more about the language, ritual, movement, sound and art incorporated in worship.

GOING INTO WORLD WITH HOPE

*HYMN #176

Comfort, comfort, O my people

***SENDING FORTH PRAYER**

Please remain standing for the postlude.

***POSTLUDE**

*You may stand.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.

Songs designated “SS” are in the purple *Sing the Story* hymnal.

As we sing, please use language that makes worship most meaningful, enriching and inclusive.

The light sculpture at the front of the sanctuary was created by Arlie Regier and his son Paul. We have cherished the long tradition of featuring this gift during Advent and Christmas.

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