

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

First Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The things that matter most should never be at the mercy of the things that matter least. ~ Goethe

PRELUDE

Consolation

F. Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hope is a light cresting over the horizon

All: To show a world made new.

One: Hope is a meal shared among friends,

All: A covenant of faith sealed in bread and wine.

One: Hope is a promise that the worst can never quite come,

All: When the Spirit dwells in our hearts.

One: Come to us, Lord Jesus!

All: Refresh us with your hope.

*HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GG: 87

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Chris Durland and Marianne Frasco

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy God, we confess that we are frazzled, distracted, tangled up, and pulled in a million different directions. Clear away the clutter of our lives. Help us separate your call from others' demands on us. Help us feel hope again—hope that in Christ all things hang together. Remove this season from our shoulders and help us to celebrate *you* again. We pray in the name of Christ, child in a manger.

(A time of silent confession)

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Hear the good news! Comfort, comfort my people! says our God.

All: The Lord God is coming, with strength and tenderness, to guide us back along the way.

One: The way things are is not the way they have to be.

All: In Christ, we are made new, forgiven and redeemed. Alleluia! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* (v. 1) GG: 744

**All: *Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with each other.

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

arr. Paul Manz

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

GG:88

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11:1-10, pg. 640

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:1-12, pg. 2

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Slowing Down the Season”

Pastor Abbie Huff

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nocturne

F. Chopin

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*All who are able please stand.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Little Study

R. Schumann

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

GG: 606

All: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: **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 debts as we forgive
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

Come, Live in the Light

GG: 749