

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

November 29, 2020

The First Sunday in Advent

In the sanctuary and live streamed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Tune: St. George's, Windsor by George Job Elvey, 1859; arr. Brant Adams

Bob Vawter, trombone; Susan Steppe, piano

As we make the transition from the national Thanksgiving holiday just past, to Advent, the season of hopeful expectancy, worshipers may call to mind the final stanza of this hymn, which is at 551 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*:

“Even so, Lord, quickly come, To thy final harvest home;

Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin.

There forever purified, In Thy presence to abide:

Come, with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.” JMK

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Veni Emmanuel

Opening Sentences

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayer for the Day (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent, and the day is at hand.

Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith,

that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

The congregation sits.

Lighting the First Candle in the Advent Wreath Hugh and Paula Bishop

At the conclusion of the candle lighting service, all stand to sing:

**O come, Thou branch of Jes-se's tree, Free them from Satan's ty-ranny
That trust Thy mighty pow-er to save, And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice; rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Prayer for Illumination

Suzanne Getman

Old Testament

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

Unison

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel; you lead Joseph like a flock.

You are enthroned upon the cherubim;

shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.

Stir up your might and come to save us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine that we may be saved.

Let your hand be upon your chosen one,

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine that we may be saved.

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 8 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

The congregation sits.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

Future Forecast

Mike Krech

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.” Mark 13:32-33

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 6

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

Apostles' Creed

Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria in Excelsis Refrain of Hymn 23

Gloria

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Advent Medley – Comfort, Comfort You My People/
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction**Hymn 38**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

Postlude The Trumpet Shall Sound (Messiah) G.F. Handel; arr. L. Smith

Following the postlude, Pastor Mike Krech will be at the front of the church near the chancel steps and welcomes conversation with any, while masked and physically distanced.

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the first Sunday in Advent, the season of four Sundays prior to Christmas Day.

It is also the start of the new liturgical year, Year B in the three-year lectionary cycle, when Gospel readings will come primarily from Mark.

Today's Old Testament asks God to come down and right the wrongs on earth, while acknowledging Israel's own sinfulness. The Epistle encourages believers to nourish their spiritual gifts as they await Christ's second Advent. The Gospel records Jesus' counsel to remain awake and alert because we know not when the Son of Man will return in glory. (JMK)