Service of Worship for the Lord's Day
November 29, 2026

Advent 1 – Hope

Prayers written by Pastor Joseph

PRELUDE "Comfort Ye," by George Frederick Handel, arr. Stephen DeCesare
Nancy Berry, piano Pastor Joseph, trombone

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
People: Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
Leader: Remember God's promises with prayer!
People: God fulfills the promise.
Leader: We light this candle in hope.
Leader: Listen for God's promise of hope in John 8:12, 26-32

READING

Leader: God's light shines in the darkness
People: And the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.
Leader: In Christ, the true light that shines on all people is coming into the world.
All: Keep watch, the LORD is near.

HYMN #104 O Lord, How Shall I meet you?

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION *Adapted from Isaiah 64*
Guide: Holy LORD, you have accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you walk upon the earth the mountains quake before you. Righteousness and holiness surround you, and our hearts leap with hope for what you might do

before all the nations.

People: From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any deity but you. You are the one who acts on behalf those who wait for you. We long to do right and to praise you for all your ways, and yet our hope is frail, and our faithfulness wanders. We lose sight of you, and sin against our neighbors and against you.

Guide: LORD God, if only you would tear open the heavens and come down! We have all become like the unclean; All of us wither like a leaf. Our sins, like the wind, carry us away.

People: LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. Don't rage so fiercely, LORD; don't hold our sins against us forever, but gaze now on your people, all of us, as we confess our individual sins together in silence.

- Silent Confessions -

Guide: We lift this prayer to you, Lord. ***"The Lord's Prayer" (debts/debtors) p. 35 in hymnal***

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL *Adapted from Romans 8*

Guide: We were saved in hope. Our hope rests on the one who searches hearts, who pleads for the saints consistent with God's will, and who conforms us to the image of Christ. Therefore we wait with patience for the time when all creation will be set free and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children, whom God has made righteous and glorified. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

CHORAL RESPONSE ***(in unison)*** #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verse 4

O come, thou root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

FAMILY SERMON Pastor Joseph

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

From Hymn 89, "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

Reader: O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines on all who look to you; come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Reader: Grace to you and pace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

People: I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus.

Reader: That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

People: The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

Reader: He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the LORD

All: Thanks be to God.

Mark 13:24-37

Reader: In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken.

People: Then you will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor.

Reader: Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

People: Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its beach becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near.

Reader: In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that

he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen.

People: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

Reader: But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert!

People: You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert.

Reader: Therefore, stay alert! You know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping.

People: What I say to you I say to all: Stay alert!

Reader: This is the Word of the LORD.

SERMON **"Jesus the Prophet" Pastor Joseph**

HYMN #106 Prepare the Way, O Zion

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Excerpts from "The Westminster Confession of Faith"*

There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection. God has all life, glory, goodness, and blessedness in and of himself. In the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and humanity, the prophet, priest, and king; the head and Savior of his Church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world.

The Holy Spirit, the third Person in the Trinity, is, together with the Father and the Son, to be believed in, loved, obeyed, and worshiped throughout all ages. The Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of life, everywhere present, and is the source of all good thoughts, pure desires, and holy counsels in humanity. The Holy Spirit moved the prophets to speak the Word of God and inspired all the writers of the

Holy Scriptures to record the mind and will of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: God of hope, help us see past our own brokenness. Help us to hold on to the light that is life for all people. Grant us hope that we might continue the work of your kingdom no matter the season. Teach us to watch for signs that you are near, so that our hope might be strengthened this day, and every day until Christ returns in power and glory.

People: Even as we wait for the coming kingdom, Lord God, help us to continue working for the kingdom, and within it. For you are already present with us all around. Give us faith to share our hope with one another, and with the community to which you have called us to minister, that all might know the hope that holds us as we hold one another in love, as we pray for one another in our quiet moments…

- Silent prayers for others and ourselves. A candle is lit. -

Pastor: We lift our prayers to you, O Lord, knowing that our hope in you is sure, for it is in Christ that we hope, and in Christ's name we pray.

OFFERTORY "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" David Harris

***OFFERING** (*in unison*) "In the Bleak Midwinter"

What can I give him, poor as I am. If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. What can I give him? Give, give my heart.

DEDICATION (unison) *Adapted from Ephesians 3*

God of glory, you are doing far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by your power at work within us. Receive our gifts and work through them in ways that glorify you both in our church and in the world around us, both now and for all generations forever and always. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1-2, 6-7

BENEDICTION Pastor Joseph

DOXOLOGY (*in unison*) #606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Savior of the Nations, Come" J.S. Bach

DAILY BIBLE READINGS
The second Sunday of Advent focuses on "Peace." **As we explore together who Jesus is to us, we're looking at Jesus as a Priest:** **a person who is the connecting point between humanity and divinity.** **How does connecting with God help us find peace on earth?**
Monday Psalm 33:16-22
Tuesday Luke 1:46-55
Wednesday Proverbs 14:26-35
Thursday I Chronicles 22:6-13
Friday Isaiah 2:2-5
Saturday Mark 5:25-34
Sunday Hebrews 10:10-25