



December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Preparation & Praise

** = Stand if you are able*

Prelude “Once He Came in Blessing” Buttstedt (organ)

Welcome & Orientation

*Call to Worship

Come people waiting in darkness.

**Lord, open our eyes to the coming of your light.
Emmanuel God With Us, Lift the Burden from our
lives.**

Come people whose hearts are chilled by sin and selfishness

**Lord, open our hearts to the warmth of your coming.
Emmanuel God With Us, melt the hardness that keeps
us from loving you and each other.**

*Come people whose branches and stems are crumpled under weight of
frost of sin and gripped in winters death, yet awaiting rebirth.*

**Lord, open our hearts to Emmanuel God With Us,
renew in our hearts your call to new life.**

*Processional Hymn

#154 (Verse 1) organ

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Gathering the Flock

*Greeting Others

Worship is a spiritual discipline that is shared with others. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you who will be assisting and amplifying your own efforts to relate to God

Personal Prayers

It is our custom to share unspoken prayer requests by lighting candles during this portion of the worship service. If you have a matter you wish to include in our prayers but do not wish to publicly disclose, feel free to come forward during the instrumental interlude and light a candle.

Prayer Concerns

Is there a praise or petition that you are aware of that we can include in our prayers? If so, jot it down on a prayer card and hand to one of the attending ushers who are standing in the aisle.

The Great Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses as we**

Forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power,
And the glory
Forever and ever.
Amen

Meditation on the Table

Communion Hymn

#704 (1&2) organ

“We meet as Friends at Table”

Words of Institution

Holy Communion

Scripture relates that at the last supper Jesus made use of a shared meal to help his first followers discern and participate in how a selfless God shares Divinity with all. We seek to follow his instructions today as we observe this ritual. All are welcome to share in Holy Communion as together we mingle our lives with God and each other

Receiving Tithes & Offerings

We believe that God's greatness is discerned in how God continually gives Godself away to others. When we choose to give ourselves away, we bear witness to God's presence and how God is assisting us in becoming our true selves. All are welcome to join us in sharing and enacting this belief as together we share our tithes and offerings.

*Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

Feeding on the Word

Preparing for the Word

We make ourselves ready
For the King of Glory to enter life.

Enter Christ through the doors of our
Hearts, Minds, and Souls.

We make ourselves ready
For the King of Glory to enter life.

We open our selves no
Fully and completely
With our imperfect will and you perfecting
strength.

Immanuel, come and dwell among us now.

Reading from the Psalter: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

*Reading for the Gospels: *Mark 13:24-37*

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Homily

*Hymn of Response

#476 (1&3) organ

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

Following the Spirit

“Family News”

*Benediction

*Postlude “I Need Thee Every Hour” arr. Raney (piano)