



Our Mission...
to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.
We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.

The First Sunday of Advent
November 29th, 2020

***Bold print** indicates a congregational response.*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

*The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end.
It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.*

**The prophet Isaiah said, "The Lord himself will give you a sign:
the young woman will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and will call him Immanuel."**

*The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings you who are highly favoured!
The Lord is with you."*

We rejoice that we too have found favour with God.
God's mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

PRELUDE *by Joan Shaw* – **"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

~John Carter

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- 1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
It came a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God of timeless grace,
you fill us with joyful expectation.
Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,
that with uprightness of heart and holy joy**

**we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Peggy Latimer*

The Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 64: 1-9

*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.*

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been
given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in
speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been
strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you
wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the
end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is*

faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

RESPONSE: *This is the word of God.*

Thanks be to God

The Gospel Lesson

Mark 13: 24-37

~Peter Latimer

*'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,*

*and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,*

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'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. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

GOSPEL RESPONSE: *The Gospel of Christ.*

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: *"The Waiting Time"*

~Peter Latimer (see the attached sermon)

VIDEO: Mission & Service Advent Christmas Appeal

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

A CONFESSION OF FAITH

A New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

**who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS

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,
the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE DOXOLOGY

(based on Ephesians 3:20-21)

**Glory to God
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*God's blessing be yours, and well may it befall you;
Christ's blessing be yours, and well may you be treated;
the Spirit's blessing be yours, and well may you spend your lives,
each day that you rise up, each night that you lie down. Amen.*

POSTLUDE by Joan Shaw— #20 VU "On Jordan's Bank"

~John Chandler

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- 1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.**
- 2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**
- 3 In you, we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.**
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won;
and praise to God whom we adore,
with Holy Spirit evermore.**