

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
*Advent 1: Hope & Communion*  
Sunday • December 1, 2024

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**Mission Statement:** As a community of faith, we welcome all who seek understanding. • As a community of hope, we offer friendship and comfort to those in need. • As a community of love, we provide caring support and shared fellowship to all.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY CHURCH. OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MEMBERS COME FROM MANY PLACES AND MULTIPLE FAITH TRADITIONS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO FIND A SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY HERE.

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Sharon Novak*

— OPENING —

LIGHTING CANDLE of HOPE *Verran Family*

One: The people who walk in darkness? Too often, that's us!

*People: We have seen deep darkness in the world around us.*

One: Today we have come to search for the light.

*People: We want the light to shine on us!*

One: The promise of the prophet Isaiah for the people in his time, was that a child would be born to liberate oppressed people. In Jesus' time, that text took on new meaning to a new generation.

*People: In our times, the promise returns.*

One: We come to kindle the light of hope in defiance of the darkness.

*People: May this light burn in each of us*

*All: May hope find a home in all of us. May your Love bring it to life in each other, so that we carry it beyond these walls into a world which yearns for such hope.*

\*SONG 114 *O Come, O Come* *Sharon Novak*

— PRAYING —

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE & SILENCE

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. *Amen.*

— REFLECTING —

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 9:2-7*

REFLECTION *Long Ago and Far Away* *Rev Gail Doktor*

\*SONG 148 *Lo How a Rose Ever Blooming* *Sharon Novak*

— OFFERING —

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

— COMMUNION —

CONFESSION *Based on Isaiah 9*

One: Advent begins in darkness: darkness of the season and the darkness of our realities. O God, you have heard us confess, again and again, how our righteous dreams translate into real-world shortcoming.

*People: First of all, prophets such as Isaiah wrote about how humanity repeatedly revealed its own imperfections.*

One: We are always striving and falling, failing, or turning away from the choices and actions that would contribute to a just and merciful community for all of God's children.

*People: Then Isaiah told us how God would respond by bringing advocates for peace, justice, and hope into the world. God would choose us all over again, despite our mistakes.*

One: We are the spiritual heirs to the people of Israel.

*People: Now, just as in Isaiah's time, we turn away from the ideals embodied in promises made between God and God's people.*

One: Sometimes we make lesser choices. We settle for more comfortable options. We compromise the world as God dared us to imagine it.

*People: After the prophets, silence took over. Hundreds of years passed, and God did not seem to speak or act.*

One: God's children felt abandoned. Sometimes we feel the same.

*People: Yet we also acknowledge that Love walks and works in the world. We have felt it, seen it, and encountered it.*

One: In this season, Love returns to us, even when we have stared into the night and the world's difficulties, and wondered if hope existed at all.

**All: Today we admit that we give into the darkness too often. And we ask you to kindle the light within us. Remind us that we are heirs to light, to love, to hope, to justice, to mercy, and to grace.**

## ASSURANCE of PARDON & INVITATION TO TABLE

## BLESSING & SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*SONG 116      *Let All Mortal Flesh*      Sharon Novak

### — CLOSING —

BENEDICTION      Sharon Novak

*May the love of God live in us today, may the love of God live in us today.*

*May the warmth we feel within us show in all we do and say.*

*May the love of God live in us today.*

*May the peace of God be with us today,*

*May the peace of God be with us today.*

*May it guide us and protect us, as we go our separate ways.*

*May the peace of God be with us, May the love of God live in us,*

*May the love of God shine through us today.*

## ISAIAH 9:2-4,6-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation;<sup>[b]</sup>  
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Great will be his authority,<sup>[c]</sup>  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## CALENDAR for ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### Sun, DEC 1 – ADVENT 1 - Hope

- 10:30am • WORSHIP: ADVENT 1/COMMUNION

### Tue, DEC 3

- 6:30pm • FELTING WOOL ORNAMENTS ([rsvp](#))

### Wed, DEC 4

- 9am - Noon • GREENING the SANCTUARY

### Fri, DEC 6

- 5pm • DOMINIQUE DODGE CONCERT @ Library

### Sun, DEC 8 – ADVENT 2: Peace

- 10:30am • WORSHIP with ADVENT 2: PEACE

### Sat, DEC 14

- 10am • FELTING WOOL ORNAMENTS ([rsvp](#))

### Sun, DEC 15– ADVENT 3: Joy

- 10:30am • WORSHIP with ADVENT 3: Joy  
with DellaValla Bluegrass Trio
- 1-4pm • COMMUNITY CAROLING

### Tue, DEC 17

- 1-3pm • LADIES COOKIE EXCHANGE  
@ Perkins' ([rsvp](#))

### Thurs, DEC 19

- 6pm • BLUE CHRISTMAS

### Fri, DEC 20

- Evening • JINGLE JAM w/ DellaVallas @ Whitney

### Sun, DEC 22 – ADVENT 4: Love & PAGEANT

- 10:30am • WORSHIP/PAGEANT - Advent 4: Love
- 11:30-Noon • SANTA PHOTOS

### Tue, DEC 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5pm • OUTDOOR WORSHIP
- 9pm • CANDLELIGHT & CAROLS WORSHIP

### Wed, DEC 25 – CHRISTMAS MORN

- 10:30am • PAJAMAS & BELLS