



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*The Hanging of the Greens*

*December 3, 2023*

*10:00 am*

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MEDITATION MUSIC

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

INTROIT *“Hosanna! Blessed is He Who Comes”*

The Preparation

The Paraments and Banners

*Chimers*

HYMN\*

*“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”*

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# The Advent Wreath

Joe and Kay Hunnings

## LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

*In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. . . . you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.*

*In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come"*

**We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.**

*We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.*

## CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

*Congregation and Handchimes*

*(Handchimes Choir rings 1 verse, then congregation sings)*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 64:1-9

Dwayne Kittle

OFFERING OF MUSIC

*Adult Choir*

*“Advent Chorale”*

GOSPEL\* – Mark 13:24-37

The Christmas Tree

The Chrismons

*The Children*

Meditation

*Linda Dickerson*

The Evergreens

*Lucian Robinson*

The Poinsettias

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord be with you. **And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna  
in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

...

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

...

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Sharing of Bread and Cup

**Prayer: Thank you, God. We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world, and still there is a star to follow. We are filled with love, for we have seen and tasted the sign of God's great love. Hope, peace, joy, and love—these are gifts of God for those whose hearts and minds are in Christ Jesus, Bethlehem baby, Servant Lord. Amen.**

**The Creche**

*Maria and Ann-Marie Conner*

**HYMN\***      *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*      83

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION\***

**CHORAL RESPONSE\***      *Congregation and Choir*

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
    the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
    still the dear Christ enters in.**