



**The First Sunday of Advent**

**DRAW NEAR 1. Hope**

Larger Size Bulletin and Announcements available – please ask an usher

*The Prelude is time to pray and seek quietness  
as we prepare to worship God together.*

**PRELUDE**

**“My Soul in Stillness Waits”**

Haugen

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTION and CHURCH NEWS**

Jim Simpson

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

John and Frances Thompson

**INTROIT HYMN # 106 v2 Prepare the Way, O Zion**

*He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.*

*His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.*

*Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.*

*O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.*

**WORDS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Hope**

Unison Prayer (when invited...)

**May this candle remind us that God’s light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**May this light serve as an invitation to draw near to God,  
for in the light of this candle we can feel God’s warmth,**

**we can see more clearly,**

**and together, we can hope for a better day. Amen.**

**\* HYMN # 88**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**CALL TO CONFESSION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(silent prayer, then spoken)*

**Advent God come among us.**

**Awaken us to your presence and fill us with your love.**

**Forgive us when our hunger for justice gives way to our hunger for power.**

**Forgive us when our hope for peace is swallowed by our fear of failure.**

**Forgive us when our songs of faith are drowned out by the shouts of the world.**

**Advent God, come among us, and make all things new. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**SONG OF ASSURANCE Hymn # 112 v 3 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing**

*When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;*

*When sin departs before his grace, then life and health comes in its place;*

*Heaven and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Jeremiah 33:14-16 (p. 694 / p.90)

Frances Thompson

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON** *(Activity Packs for children available ask Usher)*

**\* HYMN # 357**

**“The Days Are Surely Coming”**

**GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 21:25-38 (p.80 / p. 104)**

John Thompson

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

**“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”**

Larsen

**SERMON**

**“Raise Your Head”**

Jim Simpson

**THE OFFERING OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING HYMN # 109**

**“Blest Be the God of Israel”**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

John Thompson

**In this act of worship, we embrace Your presence again, O God.**

**In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again Your purpose for the world, O Savior.**

**In this moment of giving we hear Your call again, Spirit of Truth.**

**Use us – all that we have and all that we are to touch the world  
with your hope, peace, joy and love.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth,  
who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby,  
embodying both love and the need for love,**

**and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth,**

**always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting,  
nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.**

**We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ.**

**Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness  
so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.**

**And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God,**

**a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(We use gluten-free bread and grape juice for our Congregational elements.)*

**INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION PRAYER** including the Lord's Prayer  
*(...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...)*

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

As you serve each other with bread, please say "The Body of Christ broken for you"

And as you serve the cup, please say, "The Blood of Christ poured out for you"

**\*SHARING THE PEACE** "The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you"

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\* HYMN # 82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

**\* CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 110 v3 Love Has Come**

*Love has come, and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.*

*Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.*

*Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!*

**POSTLUDE** "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Wyeth  
*Kathy Cardwell MM, Director of Music*

*\*All who are comfortable standing, please stand.*

**Wednesday at Noon: Advent Lunch and Learn (2)** Draw Near to Truth

Soup, bread and dessert.

**Next Sunday, December 9, 2018 ADVENT 2 Draw Near 2. Peace**

Scripture Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 1:57-79 Sermon: "Prepare the Way"

9:00 a.m. Discovery Class Reception of New Members

Second Sunday Lunch

**SESSION OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

CLASS OF 2018:	Ann Rand	Debbie Peterson	Jim Reich
CLASS OF 2019:	Sylvia Goodyear	Patty Morris	Doris Riggs
CLASS OF 2020:	Bruce Burn	Candy Frank	Frances Young
[ELDERS-ELECT:	Rick Borden	Janice Glascock	Lynn Hayes]

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**December 2, 2018**  
**The First Sunday**  
**of Advent**  
**Dr. Jim Simpson**  
**Pastor**

