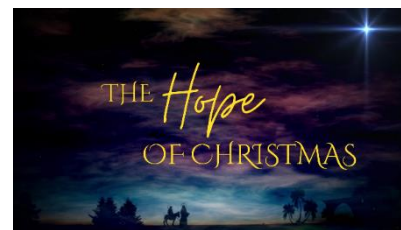


St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
First Sunday in Advent December 1, 2024
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick

Musical Interlude
Ringling of the Bell
Welcome and Announcements
Prelude Music



Then, let us rise for our Call to Worship

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Today we begin our celebration of the Season of Advent - a time of remembering, of waiting, of preparing. It is a time when we once again anticipate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ within our hearts and minds.

People: **It is a time when we can celebrate the gifts he brought – the gifts of Hope and Peace, of Joy and Love.**

Pastor: Then, let us begin by joining our voices together in our Affirmation of Faith ... **We believe in God, the creator of all things, the giver of life and breath. We believe in Jesus Christ, born Emmanuel, God with us, baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God. He sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself, suffering for us, dying for us, and being raised from the dead for our sake and for the sake of all the world. We believe that he will come again. We believe in the Holy Spirit, continually poured out refreshing our lives, leading us into a new day, ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world. This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth - reminding us of the gift of faith, the ever presence of God, and the promise of eternal life. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 88, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”** (red hymnal)

Please be Seated for the Lighting of our Advent Candle.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Hope

Today is the first day of the Season of Advent. During this time, we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus once again into the world. It is a time for us to remember that his birth was a promise God made to his people. Because of God's faithfulness in keeping his promises, we can be people of hope, even in the midst of difficult times. (Light the Candle)

So, on this day, we light the first candle in our Advent Wreath. This is the candle of hope. It is witness to our belief in God's faithfulness, the source of our hope. Let us pray together:

We thank you God, for your faithfulness to us. Help us to trust you so much that we can be a hopeful people at all times. May we become a source of hope to people everywhere who are in need and do what we can to help them. Amen.

Now, let us sing our response: (tune # 109, Away in a Manger)

**“Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage,
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.”**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Pastor: As we begin this season of anticipation, let us turn to God and speak the truth about ourselves and our need for God’s help to become all that God has called us to be. Let us pray together ...

Eternal God, you have created and nurtured us, fed and sheltered us, healed and cleansed us – and we are grateful children. Now, help us to be more like you - so that we too may feed and shelter, heal and cleanse, and bring new life and possibility to those around us. Bless us in ways that lead us to live as proof of your good news as we anticipate again - the coming of our Savior Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: God is good to us and asks us to be good to others. God is calling us to be his hands and heart and voices this Christmas Season! Let us, then, sing our response ...

Response: “Emmanuel” (Methodist Hymnal)

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.**

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Brenda McFadden

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God’s Holy Scripture. Today’s reading comes the Gospel of Luke, chapter 21. We are reading verses 25-36 where Jesus tells us to stay alert and let hope guide us in our lives.

Let us pray: Heavenly God, you bless us with hope when we find ourselves lost in despair. Be with us in all the moments of our lives and especially as we seek to better understand your ways expressed in today’s reading of Holy Scripture. Amen.

Read Luke 21:25-36 (page 85 of the NT in Pew Bible)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of God’s Holy Scripture. May God bless us with understanding and may we show our understanding in the way we live our lives. Amen.

Now, let’s sing # 89, “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Hymn: # 89, “Come, Thou Long Expected” (red hymnal)

Pastor’s Message: “We Begin With Hope“



Sacrament of Holy Communion – see insert

Sung Response: # 108 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 4)

O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in - be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell – o come to us - abide with us - Our Lord Emmanuel!

Dedication of Angel Decoration given to the church in memory of Mary Ann Clowser

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: Because of the many blessings that God has given to us, we are moved to respond with gifts given in love as well. Let us present with joy our morning offering.

Offertory

* **Response: # 551 “Old Hundredth”** (red hymnal)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* **Prayer of Dedication:** Holy God, we offer ourselves to you through our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Receive our offerings and use them according to your purpose – for we long to help you further your kingdom here and now. We dedicate this offering in the name of Jesus. Amen.

* **Hymn: # 99, “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”**

* **Benediction:** Today we have begun another Advent journey. Let us rejoice that we are not on this journey alone – for God is with us – and we have one another for company. Let us then go forth - taking with us the gift of hope that leads us back into the world so that we might serve God to his greater glory. Amen.

* **Response: “Blessing”** (sung to tune O Little Town of Bethlehem)

**Now may the good Lord bless and keep, His love in
you increase; Lift up his face with shining grace and
grant eternal peace. To Father, Son, and Spirit –
Eternal One-in-Three, Be thanks and praise through
all our days and to eternity!**

* **Postlude Music**