



MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169 • 803.796.5948

November 29, 2020 — First Sunday of Advent

Traditional Worship Service — 11:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent ELW Setting Four—Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We enter into this first Sunday of the Advent season, turning our attention to You, God. We acknowledge the darkness that is within us, and that permeates the world.

Father, forgive us.

We acknowledge the suffering, tragedy, and pain by which humanity is afflicted, which seems at times to overwhelm us.

Draw near to us, Oh God.

We consider the mystery of your ways, that you might choose to send our Savior as an innocent baby and not as a warrior or a king; as one who humbly accepted suffering and humiliation and called it glory.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

We choose in this moment to focus our attention on HOPE; the hope of Jesus Christ and all his coming represents for suffering people, the hope for restoration of all that is broken in the world, the hope of new life and resurrection.

Hope is the light we wish to see by.

Grant, Oh God, that when he comes, Christ may find us waiting in expectation, our souls quieted, our hearts soft and open.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

In Christ all things are made new, and we look forward to the day our hope is fulfilled, each heart reconciled, the work of Christ completed in all the earth.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Amen.

GATHERING SONG *“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”*

Hymn 435

GREETING

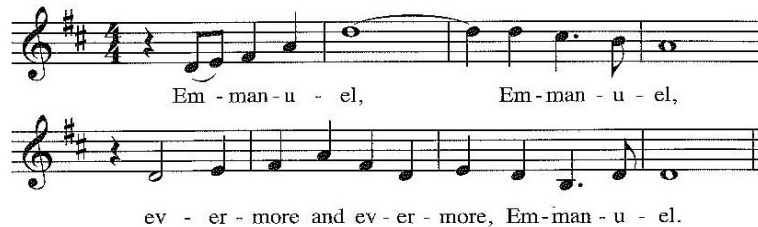
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

(Choir) Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he.

(REFRAIN)



SPOKEN LITANY

During Advent, we wait for the one promised in scripture.

And He will be called Wonderful Counselor.

We wait for the one who will bring answers to a world filled with questions.

And He will be called Wonderful Counselor.

We wait for the one who can heal the wounded and mend the broken.

And He will be called Wonderful Counselor.

We wait for the one who can renew our weary spirits and ignite our hearts with hope.

And He will be called Wonderful Counselor.

Today we light the first candle — the candle of hope — reminding us that Jesus was sent not only to be our Savior, but also to be our Wonderful Counselor; the one who hears our prayers with compassion, and who offers guidance when we seek it. As we begin the season of Advent, we remember that our rest can be found in God, and through the gift of God's son our hope is restored.

(Choir) Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts his praises sing: powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.

(REFRAIN)

(Choir) Evermore and evermore, Emmanuel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as 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!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From 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. ⁵You 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. ⁶We 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. ⁷There 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. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the

testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” (verses 1 & 2) **Hymn 257**

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then 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. ²⁸“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. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It 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. ³⁵Therefore, 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, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*”

Hymn 436

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

ANTHEM

“A Voice Proclaims”

Bell

OFFERTORY HYMN *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Hymn 885

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

p. 152

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.

PREFACE

p. 153

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p. 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

p. 153

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

p. 154

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

COMMUNION

p. 154

COMMUNION SONG

p. 154

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

p. 155

Let us pray.

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Hymn 244

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Kevin Bozard, Shawna Busbee, Gavin Carrion, Marielle Downing, Acy Flora, Karen Foley, Aubrey Horton, Rachel Hunnicutt, Randy Klapman, Lynda Mason, Ella Senn, Thomas Tuten.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Carol Merchant, Gary Spainhour, Todd Smith, Kim Redmond.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Cheryl Hall, Alice Pollock, Linda Wessinger, Mindy Williams, Herb Brazell, Elise Harmon, Penny Timmerman, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Hazel Rauch, Matthew Hook, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Faye Smith, Lisa Long.

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Carl Ray Watson Jr., Brandon & Marianne Steuck, Isabelle Sundlie, Bill Hunnicutt.

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, John Post.

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews, Bernd Koehler, John Ward.

The Family Of:

Tommy Roof, Eleanor Dunlap.

Altar Flowers. *Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Nancy Stone-Collum in honor of the birth of Lily Elizabeth Chin.*

Bulletin Covers. *Today's bulletin covers are given to the glory of God by Penny Timmerman in honor of Vicar Gayle Nelson.*

Advent Wreath. *Today's Advent Wreath is given to the glory of God by the children and grandchildren of Elizabeth Manus in her honor and in loving memory of Harry Manus and Maurice & Eleanor Dunlap.*

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Mrs. Elise Helms, Interim Choir Director

Mrs. Jenny Wright, Guest Musician

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Vicar Gayle Nelson, Intern