

ST PAULS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 28, 2021 – 9:30 am
First Sunday in Advent

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

WELCOME - No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)**

With joy we await the coming of Christ, even as we struggle to make sense of living in a topsy-turvy world.

We seek God's wisdom for our purpose outside these walls.

Let our prayers be filled with light and love for those in need.

Let our words be a healing balm for those who seek comfort.

Let our actions demonstrate we are a safe harbor for those living in fear.

In this season of Advent, let us be fully present to what it means to be the church.

The Advent candle soon will be lit. We await fulfillment of God's promise of salvation through the humble birth of a child.

Surely the light is coming!

***HYMN 116, vss 1,6,7 "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"**

LITURGY OF THE ADVENT WREATH - LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

TOM AND CINDY GAIN

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with Christmas preparations, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as only you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. We want to come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE - "Peace be with you.
And also with you."

Children's Message

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

HISTORICAL WITNESS

HEBREW BIBLE (OLD TESTAMENT)

PSALM 25 1-10

Reader: The Word of Salvation

All: Thanks be to God

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 3 9-13

Reader: The Word of Salvation

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn- He Came Down (Insert)

GOSPEL READING MARK 1 2-8

Reader: The Word of Salvation

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

"God loves a cheerful giver."

*Please place your prayer requests in the offering plate.
There will also be a time to share your joys and concerns
Thank you!*

***DOXOLOGY (UNISON)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

O God, we ask that you receive these gifts today as a token of our gratitude for all that you have given us. We cannot thank you enough for your love that you lavish upon us. May our gifts extend the ministry and mission of this, your church, into the world. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (UNISON)

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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

***HYMN The King of Glory (Insert)**

***BENEDICTION - CHARGE**

POSTLUDE

All things are difficult before they are easy.