



**Seventh & James Baptist Church
December 1, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday of Advent**

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing”

(EST IST EIN ROS, 1599)

Michael Burkhardt

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Terry Reeves

The shadows of the world have collected around us, seemingly drowning out what little light and good shines amongst humanity. We're afraid that we cannot bring enough hope to a world in desperate need, because all we see is despair with no end in sight. In the light of this first Advent candle, though, the words of the angels ring out, “Fear not!” as the light forces those shadows to begin to retreat and we start to find courage to face our broken world with a hope that God is about to calm the chaos and disperse the shadows that abound.

— Alec Ylitalo, *Sacred Seasons*,
Seeds of Hope Publishers, Advent/Christmastide 2024

Welcome and Call to Worship

Scott Turner

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you've been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Choral Summons

“The Word Was God”

Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
And the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

Processional Hymn, No. 87

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

Litany of Hope

Carolien Tantra

One: Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.

Many: We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the darkness.

One: Advent is a time to remember that God’s love extends to all people.

Many: We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.

One: Advent is a time to renew our determination.

Many: We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.

One: Advent is a time to strive for understanding.

All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

— *Hope Publishing Company* (<https://www.hopepublishing.com/Images/CandleLighting/litany/C6111-litany.pdf>)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dillan Damping

Meditation

“Il Est Né Le Divin Enfant”

arr. Frank Halferty

Avery Poehls, *violin*

Daniel Farris, *piano*

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

David Dwi Chrisna

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Lidija Novakovic

Hymn, No. 86

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Matt Rosencrans

Offertory

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

(NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN
HEILAND) Michael Burkhardt

During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God’s call.

Doxology

(Sung to Veni Emmanuel, tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Children’s Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Responsive Reading of Psalm 25:1-10

Daniel Farris

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Many: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

One: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Many: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

One: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Many: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

One: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O Lord!

Many: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

One: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Anthem

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

Mack Wilberg

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Sermon

“Worth the Wait?”
(Psalm 25:1-10)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.

— Henri Nouwen

Hymn of Commitment, No. 88

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Choral Benediction

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

(ES IST EIN ROS)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Postlude

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

(Schön Leuchtet)
Michael Burkhardt

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is David Gilbreath.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Sally Lynn Askins.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

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