

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2016

In the days to come, may we discover that fear has fled
as your hope draws ever near.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

We wait with hope, Approaching God, for you to hand us the bread of heaven.

We watch with hope, Bethlehem's Child, and we see the world's powers tremble at your humble approach.

We wait and watch as our hardened hearts are torn open so you can come and live with us forever.

Gathering

PRELUDE

**"To Wonder and Worship"
"Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"**

Southbridge
Smith

WELCOME

Cody Conway

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Now let us pray together:

***Eternal and near at hand, already and not-yet, God's promise is the foundation of all life.
Amen.***

*INTROIT #39

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (v.1)

Chisholm, 1923

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Now, in this season of waiting,

may we welcome the God who comes to restore our lives.

Now, in this season of watching,

may we see Jesus at work in the world, and rush to help him.

Now, in this season of hoping,

may we share the Spirit of wonder and joy with everyone we meet.

*HYMN #357

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

Gambrell, 1996

CALL TO CONFESSION

Advent is the season of waiting and watching, of preparing and praying, of hoping and hearing. Let us come to God, speaking of how easily we become distracted from these simple acts of Advent discipleship, as we confess our sins together first silently, then together using the words in the bulletin.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and powerful God, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ. You continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. We pray in the name of the Child. Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

***"Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us."***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Reach out and touch the kingdom, for it is right next to you. Breathe in, and feel the Spirit of peace and hope. Trust and believe this good news: God is nearer than you might ever imagine. ***Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! We can set aside our differences and embrace all people; we can seek peace for all in our lives, our neighborhoods, our world. Amen.***

*GLORIA PATRI

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

#580

Proclaiming

ANTHEM

"Jubilate Deo"

Dale Wood

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

Bibles, p.594/LG. p.773

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #347

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Moultrie, 1864

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24:36-44

Bibles, p.26/ LG. p.33

The Word of God, for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON

"You Just Never Know"

Rev. Candice L. Klein

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment,

both to deter all people from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity, so will God have that day unknown to all, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and may be ever prepared to say, Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!” This, we believe. Amen.

– *The Westminster Confession of Faith* 6.182

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “*O Come, Emmanuel*” Martin

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sending

*HYMN #97 “*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*” (v.1&2) Bowring, 1825

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #97 “*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*” (v.3)

POSTLUDE “*Veni Emmanuel*” Miller

(*) Those who are able may stand.

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

This week’s prayers and concerns: the family of Jack Clark, Robbie Brooks, Syble & Tom DeLoach, Debbie Murphy, Cindy Ratliff, Sue Williams and Dr. David Craig.

Into the Church Triumphant

Jack L. Clark

1922 – 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon. 11/28

Pipeline Deadline

Sun. 12/04

2nd Sunday in Advent

Choir Practice Thur. 12/01 at 5:00pm

Pastor: Rev. Candice L. Klein 903-392-8443 fpchendersonrev@aol.com

Church Secretary: Lisa Temple Director of Music: Mark Reeves, CAGO

Custodian: Bob Schauwecker Nursery Attendant: Martha Baughman