

# Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2017

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

*Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Amen.*

## Gathering

PRELUDE Selected

WELCOME Jimmy Chapman

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP Carol Scoggins

INTRODUCTION TO ADVENT Rev. Dr. Ronnie Holloman

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Ushers

*People: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.*

\*INTROIT #82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (v.1) Wesley, 1744

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Awake! Rejoice! Prepare to meet your God! Christ is coming. Open the door. Sweep the path. Prepare the way!

*Christ came at Christmas to live as one of us. Christ comes today to love us and to lead us. Christ will come tomorrow, wherever we may be.*

Christ will come when time and space are ended, and everything returns to God.

*Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Amen.*

\*HYMN #82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (v.2)

CALL TO CONFESSION

No ear has heard nor eye seen One like the God who sent Jesus the Christ to redeem us from our sin. Let us confess the sin from which Christ alone delivers us.

SILENT PRAYER (A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Almighty God, we stand before you this day painfully aware of our sin. Like the prophet Isaiah, we sometimes feel, not like Your holy people, but sinful, unclean, and corrupt. We sometimes even feel that You have abandoned us altogether, when in reality it is we who have forsaken You. Forgive us, O God, and return to our lives in ever new ways, that we may also return to You. This we pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*“Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the words of Paul when he writes: “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.” By God’s grace you will be sustained to the end and through Christ’s mercy you will be found guiltless in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. To God be all praise and glory.

*In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.*

\*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

HYMN #135 “Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow” African American Spiritual

## Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Bibles, p.511/LG. p.665  
The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

HYMN #106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion” Franzen, 1812

SECOND SCRIPTURE Mark 13:24-37 Bibles, p.47/ LG. p.61  
The Word of God, for the People of God *Thanks be to God*

SERMON “There Will Be Signs” Rev. Dr. Ronnie Holloman

## Responding

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his*

*only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.” This, we believe. Amen*      *–The Apostles’ Creed*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Selected

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

*Those who are able may come down the center aisle to be served. If you prefer, please remain seated and the elements will be brought to you. The outer ring of the communion tray contains white grape juice and the inner rings contain wine.*

## *Sending*

\*HYMN #93                      **“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”** (v.1&2)                      Weissel, 1942

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE #93                      **“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”** (v.3)

POSTLUDE

Selected

(\* ) Those who are able may stand.

***Bold italic letters*** indicate congregational responses.

**This week’s prayers and concerns:** Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Dorothy Maloney, Billie Manck, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Bob Schauwecker, Patsy Snelgrove, Billy Tapley, and Sue Williams.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon. 12/04	Home Communion	
Sun. 12/10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	
Sun. 12/10	Congregational Christmas Luncheon	following service