

# Service for the Lord's Day

**First Sunday of Advent** 

November 29, 2020

— Gathering —

PRELUDE Joshua Allen

WELCOME Rev. Michele R. Goff

## **OPENING SENTENCES & CANDLE LIGHTING**

John & Lynn Tieken

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

we light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Chris

As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . .

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

MUSIC Joshua Allen

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, Lynn Tieken

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

# **CONFESSION**

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

# ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Michele R. Goff

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! *Thanks be to God*.

— Word—

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lynn Tieken

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## **SCRIPTURE**

Our first reading is from the prophet Isaiah chapter 64, verses 1 through 9. A voice is crying in the wilderness: Listen to the word of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Our gospel reading is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 13 verses 24 through 37. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever. *Thanks be to God.* 

SERMON

"Advent or Apocalypse?"

Rev. Michele R. Goff

## **ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE**

Now to the God of all wisdom, who strengthens us according to the gospel, through Jesus Christ be all glory forever. *Amen.* 

— Response —

MUSIC Joshua Allen

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lynn Tieken

Watching and waiting for the coming of Christ, we pray for the promise of a new creation, saying: Come quickly, Lord; **our hope is in you.** 

With expectation, we pray for the church . . .

Let your reign of love shape us, as a master potter skillfully forms a vessel, that we may reveal your beauty to the world. Come quickly, Lord; **our hope is in you.** 

With expectation, we pray for the world . . .

Draw near to those who wait for you. Break into their circumstances with blessing. Heal the earth that awaits your restoration. Come quickly, Lord; **our hope is in you.** 

With expectation, we pray for this community . . .

Transform the places in which we live. Grant that the gifts you have given all of us may be used for the common good. Come quickly, Lord; **our hope is in you.** 

With expectation, we pray for loved ones . . .

Comfort all who suffer and despair. Assure them of your presence and care. Let your face shine and save us. Come quickly, Lord; **our hope is in you.** 

God our hope, as the promised day approaches, fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit and strengthen us to serve you faithfully; through Christ, who is coming to reign. *Amen.* 

#### LORD'S PRAYER - 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.

MUSIC Joshua Allen

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Michele R. Goff

Thank you for your continued cooperation as we work to keep our sanctuary a covidfree environment. Your consistent generosity of time, talent and treasure in these extraordinary days is a testament to your character.

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Therefore, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lvnn Tieken

God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. *Amen.* 

— Sending —

## **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

Rev. Michele R. Goff

May the God of peace make you holy and the power of the Spirit sustain you until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Alleluia!* 

Prepare the way of the Lord! Amen.

MUSIC Joshua Allen



Rev. Michele R. Goff.......Pastor

Joshua Allen.....Music Director

Stefen Kane.....Admin Assist.



