

And because of our past, we have hope for the future.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ's realm.
Light of the World and Shadow of Safety, *hear our prayer.*

...We pray for the peace of your people . . .

Bring peace, O God, to the world you have made:

the peace that passes understanding and the promise of your new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is coming in glory to reign. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.*

— Eucharist —

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Waving Through a Window* from *Dear Evan Hansen* River Evers, soloist

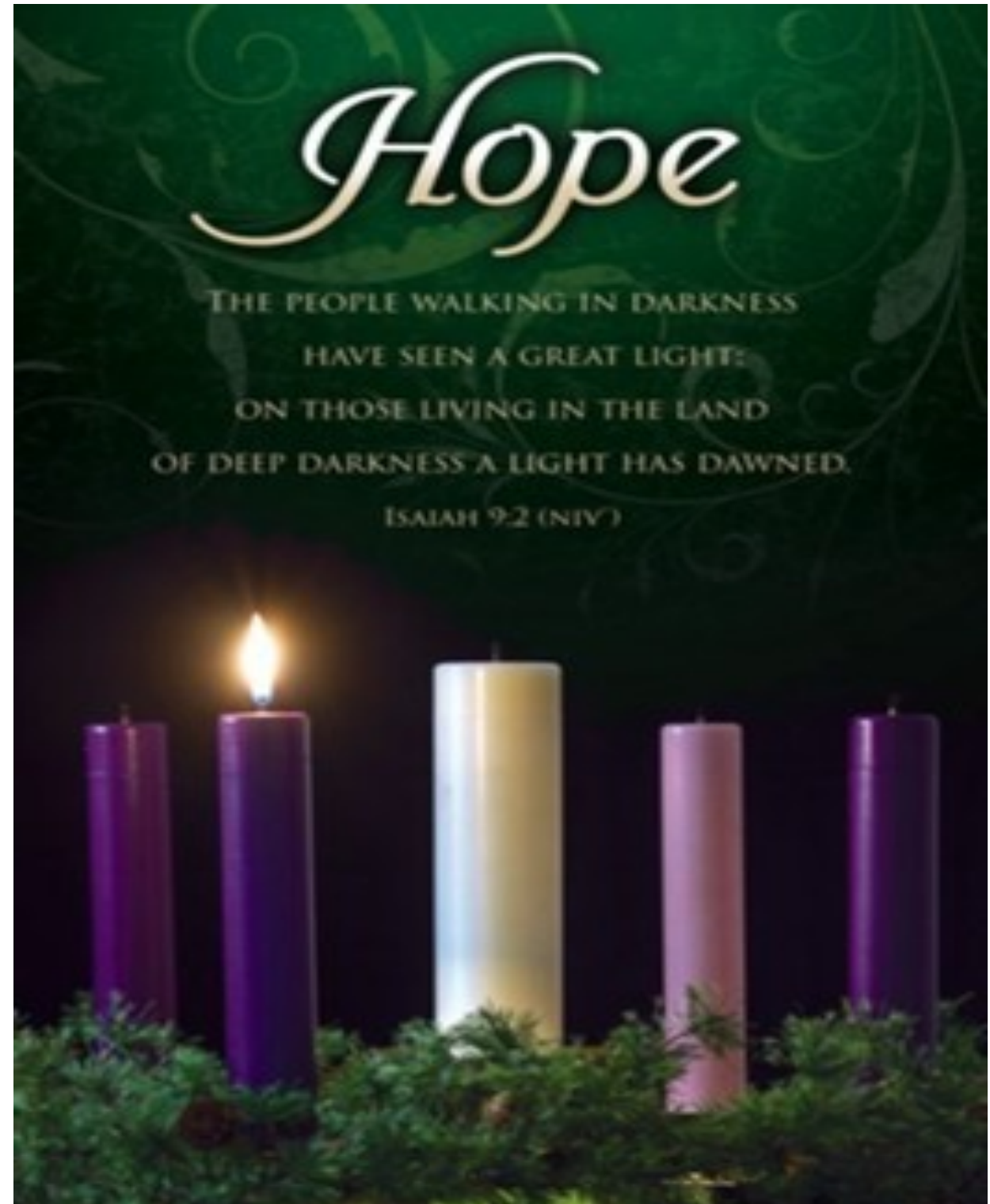
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Light of the World and Shadow of Safety, we bring our humble offerings to you,
knowing to you belong the lights sustaining us and the vastness of the universe
surrounding us. Take our offerings of time and treasure and multiply them among us.
Guide us to use these gifts with wisdom and cleverness to the glory of your Son, Jesus.
Amen*

[see insert]



*Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences*



(*) Please rise in body or in spirit
Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TX**

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

— Gathering —

PRELUDE The Great Adventure *from Kimberly Akimbo* Ensemble

WELCOME Rev. Michele Goff

***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Jimmy Chapman

Come to worship, all who seek and search for truth and justice.

The light will guide your way to wisdom.

Come to worship, all who wonder, wander, and wait for Jesus.

The light will show you the way.

Come to worship, to find comfort, rest, and peace.

God is in the shadows, find peace under God's wings.

Come to worship, all who seek safety from scary things.

God is in the hiding places, and the darkness is safe.

We gather to worship in light and in darkness.

God is here among us. Let us worship!

***Prayer of the Day**

***HYMN #127** Jesus, the Light of the World
(Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

CANDLE LIGHTING

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place here on earth. Today we light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us.

Come, hope of heaven!

We lift up our heads with expectation.

Where will we find you today?

ADVENT PRAYER

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE Tomorrow *from Annie* Ensemble

CONFESSION

Light of the World and Shadow of Safety, we humble ourselves to pray.

***We confess we are imperfect in our love for one another,
and unjust with our power.***

***You created us to be reflections of your love and justice,
but we often reflect our own fears and prejudices. Forgive us, God.***

***If we are mirrors of your great brilliance,
help us sparkle when the world is gray. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rest in the assurance you are forgiven, loved, and ready to begin again. ***Glory to God.***

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9 Bible p. 652-653, LG p. 849-850

A voice is crying in the wilderness: Listen to the word of the Lord.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Bible p. 155, LG p. 201

Hear the word of the Lord.

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37 Bible p. 47-48, LG p. 61-62

Hear God's wisdom for us.

The wisdom of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON Smell the Figs Rev. Michele Goff

Rev. Michele Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

***HYMN #314** Christ, Be Our Light (Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the hope of our faith:

While we were still stardust,

our Creator held us in contemplation.

While we were enslaved,

the Righteous Judge burned with anger.

When we were set free,

the Shepherd guided us toward green pastures.

While we were violent and hateful,

God imagined a world of peace.

When we oppressed others,

the Mighty One moved against us and laid us low.

When we were oppressed,

the Deliverer broke our chains.

When we did not know the way of love and justice,

the Loving Parent sent the Child, Jesus.

When we carried heavy burdens,

Jesus bore them for us.

We have seen God's faithfulness in the past.