

December 3, 2023, Christ Alive Service (11:00 AM)  
First Sunday of Advent with the Four Hoarsemen +2

Prelude

Gathering Music: Four Hoarsemen +2: *And the Song Goes On*

Welcome & Communion Speaker

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Light the Advent Candle*

Verse 1

Light the Advent candle one  
Now the waiting has begun  
We have started on our way  
Time to think of Christmas day.

Introduction

Family Reading "The Prophets "and Lighting of Candle One

Chorus:

Candle, candle burning bright  
Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

†Congregational Hymns

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Joys

Four Hoarsemen +2 with Celebration Ringers: *Christmas Time*

Thanksgiving Prayer

Call to Prayer (Four Hoarsemen +2) *Breath of Heaven*

Prayers of the People  
Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response: (Four Hoarsemen +3) *Amen*

†Prayer of Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-6

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Title: *Focus*

Celebration of Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Christ and the Church

Invitational Hymn Four Hoarsemen +2 *Hallelujah*

Receiving of New Members

(Congregational Response- Onscreen)

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you at Christ United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Benediction

Benediction Response Four Hoarsemen +2

And the Song Goes On

Postlude: Piano/Organ