

December 3, 2023, Celebration Service (8:50 AM)
First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

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

Welcome & Communion Speaker

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Light the Advent Candle

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

Thanksgiving Prayer

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

Doxology 94 **Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!**
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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; Mark 1:1-8

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

Sermon *Focus*

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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)

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 (The Light of Christ Taken into the World)

Benediction Response Four Hoarsemen +2

And the Song Goes On

Postlude