

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Welcome and Invocation

Call to Worship

ELBC Children's Choir

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

AJ & Julie Rinaudo

Worship with Silence and Prayer

Pastor Andrew

Hanging of the Christmas Green

*Come Thou Long expected Jesus (244)*

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Offertory Prayer

Chip Bounds

Worship with Giving

ELBC Children's Choir

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Message

Andrew Barrett

## **THE POSTURE OF PEACE**

*PSALM 131*

Time of Reflection and Prayer

Hymn of Response

*Trust and Obey (571)*

Benediction

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

AJ & JULIE RINAUDO

Speaker 1: Please join me in our Advent reading from Isaiah 9. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Worshippers: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shone.**

Speaker 2: Darkness is the setting of Advent, which can sometimes be lost on us as we finish the Thanksgiving season and begin decking the halls with bright colors and festive décor.

Speaker 1: The “great light” did not shine upon a cheerful people raising toasts to their good fortune. Light shone among a people walking in darkness.

Speaker 2: And it was a darkness of their own doing, of foolishness, weakness, carelessness, and hostility. *For* this darkness they were at fault. *In* this darkness they lived. *By* this darkness they were rendered hopeless. Darkness is the setting of Advent.

Speaker 1: Yet *into* the darkness God announces the dawning of light, the dawning of *hope*; hope, not of a better lifestyle, nor of a nicer religious experience. But the hope of a child.

**Worshippers: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**

Speaker 2: Today we light the First Advent Candle, the candle of “Hope.” Hope is not wishful thinking. It is a settled conviction about reality!

Speaker 1: And this is our hope: That God has shone the light of Christ into *our* darkness. That Christ has *dispersed* of the darkness outside us and within. That Christ is establishing a reign of light and life. And that this Christ is a King worthy of all allegiance.

**Worshippers** [*Speaker 2 lights the candle while the congregation speaks*]: **For his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.**

Speaker 1: This is the word of the Lord!

**Worshippers: Thanks be to God!**

Speaker 1: You may be seated