

**Order of Worship
for
The First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**

TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME

"Where Is God?"

Isaiah 64:1-9

Advent reminds us of the blessings of waiting. Because we see the fragile light of Christ up ahead, we can sit in the darkness and wait.

God has torn open the heaven and come down but in ways we never expected.

God comes to love to us not in a loud, flashing show of power but in the hidden, small and ordinary.

There God comes speaking a promise: "For the sake of Jesus, I love you. I forgive you. may feel like you are standing in the rubble of Jerusalem. You want me to tear open the heavens and come down. I have . . . not with the fanfare of the Red Carpet but there in that baby born in a barn because there was no room in the inn."

CALL TO WORSHIP

"As We Gather"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING & PASSING OF THE PEACE

On this Sunday we gather for worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you!

Please, feel free to pass the peace as you feel comfortable!

HYMN OF PRAISE
“Now the Feast of Celebration”
ELW 167

PRAYER

Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection waken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SONG

“All Things Are Possible”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Hope

We begin our Advent Season with the lighting of the first candle on the Advent Wreath—the Candle signifying HOPE. We always await, in hope, the coming of Jesus into our lives. Christ is always arriving as He enters our troubled world, and He will arrive again to fulfill all of God’s promises. This not an idle hope, but an active HOPE that inspires us, His children, every day.

(Candle of Hope is lit)

HYMN

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

ELW 257

vs 1 & 2

READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

**The lesson for today is from Isaiah,
chapter sixty-four, verses one through nine.**

Isaiah proclaims:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence ² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered^[c] us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

**The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of Mark,
chapter thirteen, verses twenty-four through thirty-seven.**

Jesus speaks:

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Steve Albertin

MESSAGE

"Where Is God?"

Rev. Steve Albertin

We can identify with the prophet Isaiah when our lives are hurting and we want God NOW!

We wish God were clearly and obviously visible, because then it would be easier to believe. But God most often comes in the shadows and whispers. We complain that God is an "underachiever."

Often God's presence is obvious to a believer but is only barely visible to the casual onlooker.

Why does God communicate this way? Because God insists on remaining free and will not be some tame house pet on a leash.

God is difficult to hear and see, not only because our lives are so cluttered and noisy, but also because WHAT God says is so different: God's love for us!

That is why the Church, in it's wisdom, has the season of ADVENT in these weeks before Christmas: it is important to WAIT... so that we don't miss God's subtle and unspectacular visits among us in Word, Sacrament, and in that "poor baby of vagrant parents."

*God comes quietly, so that we will stop and wait to listen to what really matters:
Gods' Promise!*

SONG

"I Do Believe"

OFFERING

Your offerings are more than just money to keep the lights turned on. Your gifts help to sustain and expand all of our ministries here at King of Glory, including those which provide direct assistance to those in our community who are in need. We are grateful for all of the gifts we receive, and we strive to be good stewards of the resources you provide to us.

**If you wish to give online, you can [use our app](#)
Or, go to our website at <https://kogcarmel.org/give>**

HYMN

"We Are an Offering"

ELW 692

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*During this time, we pray for all those who need God's blessings, and praise Him
for the blessings He has bestowed upon us.*

*During the prayers, there will be a time of silence, when we offer our personal
prayers to God.*

*Following each petition, the pastor will say, "Hear us, O God"
Please respond with, "**Your mercy is great**"*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We prepare to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion, by remembering the words and actions of Jesus during the Last Supper.

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome at his table. There, they receive him and the new life he offers.

Those who eat and drink at his table commit themselves to the care and redemption of all that God has made.

If you are not baptized, contact Pastor Albertin to learn how you can receive the great gift God has for you in baptism.

Today you are welcome to join us at Christ's table.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give You our thanks and praise, O God...

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer You thanks and praise, mixed with the eternal blessings offered even now by Your angels and archangels, as we join them in that praise of You today!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is My body, broken for you. Eat this, and remember Me."

After supper, He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to all to drink, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant, written in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of all sin. Drink this, and remember Me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are Yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

***For those worshipping in-house,
we invite you to come forward if you wish.
If you prefer to take communion at your seat,
you may do so.***

***For those joining us online,
If you are able,
we invite you to take communion where you are,
using any kind of bread and either wine or grape juice
so that you may receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus the Christ.***

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now, may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, keep you in His grace and peace, now and forever. Amen!

SONG

“Soon And Very Soon”

BENEDICTION

*May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you God’s peace; in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Minister: Rev. Dr. Steve Albertin

Pianist & Sounds of Glory Director: David Moscrip

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