

Sunday, November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent



In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light.

The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*PRELUDE "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Hymn #2

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE
Jennie & Sean Koenig Family

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. Truth be told, sometimes we're not even sure Jesus is going to return, So it's pretty hard to be attentive to you or attend to anything but our own interests. Instead, we just occupy ourselves with our own concerns. We don't wait to find your will for us. We don't notice the needs of the people around us. We don't see your fingerprints in our world. To be honest, God, here's the bottom line: when it comes to waiting and watching for you, we are sometimes careless and all too often clueless. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to

work and watch for your coming. In these quiet moments now, O God, by your spirit show us what we need to bring before you, to repent of and confess to you. . .

[Silence as we pray] . . . And we say together: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SONG - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymn #9

YOUNG DISCIPLES

K - 12th Grade students are invited to go downstairs to Sunday School

PRAYER OF READINESS

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

SERMON "Hope is on the Way in God's Time"

Scripture Matthew 24: 36-44

RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

To share a joy or concern: Click [HERE](#) or use the QR code.

OFFERING

To give online: Click [HERE](#), or use the QR code.

SONG: "What A Wonderful World" Oran Palmateer

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Instrumental*

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Gregg Meserole as our guest preacher.

Pastor Pat Smith, pat@erpc.org

Don Watson, Music Director, Don@erpc.org

Cathy McGee, Executive Administrator, office@erpc.org