

December 2nd ,2018

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
COMMUNION**

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison.

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson
Pianist/Organist: Carol Wehrstedt
Music Director: Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

* Entry of the Bible

Introit

Lighting the Candle of Hope: (see insert)

* Hymn: "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" #110

Opening Prayer:

Loving God: our praises and prayers this first Advent day flow from the season's joyous news. You come to your people. You dwell with us. You come and your presence alone changes reality. The Kingdom of God has drawn near. As we marvel and wonder at the miracle of your advent, we are moved to confess the ways we have fallen short. We confess that we are dull to the splendor of your presence and are slow to perceive the new life you offer us. Instead of turning to your light, we remain blinded and live in the darkness. Forgive us for living with shallow hope and narrow expectations. Awaken us to the glory and splendor of your presence. Revive our hope and reawaken our energy for your purposes. Blessing, glory and honour be yours. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Choir Anthem

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S CHILDREN

*Praise Song: "Pass It On" (Blue Song Book) #21

Exploring God Together

"Be Still and Know that I am God" (Ps. 46: 10)
Please take the time before the service as an opportunity to quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Upcoming Events at First

Dec 4 th	More than Mission	12:00 pm
Dec 5 th	Board of Managers	7:00 pm
Dec 6 th	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Dec 9 th	Sunday Worship 2 nd Sunday in Advent	11:00 am



Envelope and PAR contributors:

If you are considering increasing your offering amounts for 2019, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can get it set up for you. Income Tax receipts will be issued in mid-Feb. Sandra Allan 577-9372

Please ensure that all revenue from any special events in 2018, as well as receipts for re-imbursement for expenses in 2018, have been submitted no later than Dec 23rd. "

Cyril Johnson has graciously offered to host a special fundraiser to contribute to the Raise the Roof Campaign. On request, Cyril will make you a custom lazy susan for use on your dining room table or as game board holder for your living room table. A 16" maple, ash or oak will cost \$70.00. A 10" will cost \$35.00. Cherry, walnut or zebra wood are also available at a greater cost. Please speak with Cyril if you have any questions.

Thank you, this week, to: Dec 2nd

Greeters: Leila Pettigrew and Betty Irving

Lay Reader: Lynae Grace

Fellowship Time: Brenda Seabrook &

Elevator Operator: Ian Kinsman

Offering Counting: Joyce Nystrom & Brenda Seabrook

Offering Collection: Joyce Nystrom & Brenda Seabrook



Next week's volunteers: Dec 9th

Greeters: Leila Pettigrew and Betty Irving

Lay Reader: Colin Rackham

Fellowship Time: Gerry & Janet Racey

Elevator Operator: Leo Wehrstedt

Offering Counting: Sandy Allan, Mickey Kennedy & Leila Pettigrew

Offering Collection: Sandy Allan & Leila Pettigrew

The Board of Managers will begin developing the 2019 budget shortly. If you have any ideas that might impact either revenue or expenses in the coming year, please submit your information to the Board to ensure that our budget is an accurate estimate.

More Than Mission held their final sale on Sunday. There were 3 tables of beautiful baking that netted (the Church Operating Fund) **\$325.25!** Thank you so much to all of you who baked, who bought, who helped in any way. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

SHARE THE WARMTH!

Craft & Conversation will be collecting items of warmth until December 16. Donations of socks, hats, underwear, mittens and gloves can be placed in the box in the library. They will be shared with agencies in the community.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation:

#119 v.1

"Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid."

Bible Readings:

Luke 21:25-36

P. 85-86 NT

Psalms 71:17-24

P. 533 OT

1Thessalonians 3:9-13

P. 204 NT

Gloria Patri:

#594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Sermon: "With Hopeful Hearts"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

* **Offertory Response:**

#141 v.2

"Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this. He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this."

Prayer of Dedication:

O God, we offer you these gifts and tithes. We pray that these funds may abound in love for one another throughout the world. Strengthen our hearts in holiness as we faithfully give, so that our ways may be directed by you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

* **Hymn:** "The Son of God Proclaim"

#558

Affirmation of Faith:

Jesus is Lord! The Word of God is made real and human in our midst. All things are possible with God. Our thanks and praise rise into the heavens. Even in the midst of this world's darkness, we believe that God's love will never be defeated, and that peace will come and be found among us. We believe that God has entered human life. Our journeying is forever accompanied by Jesus, who is the light of the world and is understood in kindness. This we believe and from this we live.

Remembering the Meal with Jesus

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And the Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks!

We give our thanks and praise to the Lord God!

Holy One, Holy Three—Spirit, Son, and Father, you unfolded time and space and created us to love and be loved, to live on this earth, and tend to it for your glory. With grateful hearts,

We offer our praise and thanks.

Holy One, Holy Three—Author, Word, and Breath, you chose your covenant people and you revealed yourself as holy, incomparable, and elusive—as liberator, judge, and compassionate forgiving love. With grateful hearts,

We offer our praise and thanks.

Grace-full God, whose saving power enlarges us and our capacity for love, setting us free to live in your wonder, hear us as we join our voices with angels and archangels, the saints around your throne, and all creation to sing your praise:

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

Holy One, Holy Three—Lover, Beloved, and Energy of Love, you became human in Jesus, whose love goes beyond our limits, reaching out to good and bad alike and calling us to practice peace, mercy, and kindness, to forgive as we have been forgiven; and to love even our enemies. With grateful hearts,

We offer our praise and thanks.

Holy One, Holy Three—Giver, Given, and Gifting, as we share this bread and cup, we remember how Jesus died for us, bore our sins in his body on the tree, defeated the powers of this age, and lives among us here and now, breaking our dividing walls and giving us good news. With grateful hearts,

We offer our praise and thanks.

Holy Spirit, power and presence of Holy Three, Holy One, make this bread and cup our communion with the body and blood of Christ. With grateful hearts,

We offer our praise and thanks.

Sharing the Meal**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts...debtors)****WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

* Hymn "Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-5) #122

Blessing

Response:

#168 v.1

"See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below; see, the Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, O ever bless-ed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Postlude

(Please maintain a reverent silence and stillness during the postlude, which is our organist's gift both to you and to God. If you must leave before the postlude concludes, please do so as quietly as possible.)