



Welcome to the Church of the Advent! If you are visiting with us, please know we are honored by your presence! We invite you to complete a guest card, which will allow us to remain in contact with you and provide you with additional information. You may place your completed card in the offering plate, or you may give it to our priest as you are leaving. On our website (www.adventks.org), you will find an up-to-date calendar of all church ministries and activities, and you may sign up to receive our weekly email. If you are interested in learning more about the Church of the Advent, the Episcopal Church, or the Christian faith, please contact our priest (Tim Johnson) at (610) 444-4624 or rector@adventks.org. **Again, welcome!**

Intergenerational activity next Sunday: Visit with St. Nicholas and card making. Elementary Sunday School will NOT meet next Sunday.

Jr/Sr High Sunday School at 9:45, meets in the St. Jude Room.

Adult Formation at 9:45

The six-week book discussion of Adam Hamilton's *The Message of Jesus* will resume next Sunday in the **St. Nicholas Room**.

A six-week lectionary discussion group meets in the **St. Ann Room** to reflect on and discuss the Sunday's appointed Bible readings. No sign-up or preparation required.

Holy Eucharist, 8 am, Monday, Dec. 1, Chapel, Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle.

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025 11:00 A.M.**

(Our liturgy is taken from Enriching Our Worship, an authorized supplement to The Book of Common Prayer.)

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Chorale-Prelude on 'Sleepers Awake'* Bach

OPENING HYMN *The King shall come*
#73 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living God.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Lord. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O come, O come Emmanuel
#56, vs. 1-2, in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant & People

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you."

- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Please kneel or be seated for the prayers of the people and confession.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(Response to each petition: **Draw near and hear us.**)*

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(silence)

Celebrant Lord Jesus, you are the living Word who was with God from the beginning. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant Christ Jesus, you are the life and light of all people. Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord Jesus, your light shines in the midst of our darkness, and our darkness did not overcome it. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

People Look East
Advent Parish Choir

Bensacon Carol

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

here — be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Eucharistic Prayer 3 from Enriching Our Worship)

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

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places...

...we join with the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosana in the highest!**

(Please kneel, remain standing, or kneel for the remainder of the prayer.)

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent...

...your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine...

...Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.
Blessed are you now and forever. **Amen!**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.
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Celebrant This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

People **Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

COMMUNION HYMN *Signs of endings all around us*
#721 in the **Wonder, Love & Praise** (green hymnal)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant & People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

THE ADVENT BLESSING

Celebrant May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Sleepers awake

#61 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in A Minor

Sweelinck

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Common Prayer, the Episcopal Church in the United States of America. Used with permission.
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The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored this week by John & Amanda Poor.

WORSHIP SUPPORT

Lector: Barbara Thornton

Sub Deacon: Dennis Glasgow

Eucharistic Minister: Barbara Thornton

Director of Music: Wilson G. Somers

*Pastoral Emergencies – If you have a pastoral emergency requiring the
assistance of a priest, please contact the church office during office hours.
Outside of office hours, please contact the Rev. Tim Johnson directly at
484-730-1988.*

**Suggested Spiritual Practice During Advent:
Read the Gospel of Luke**

The Gospel of Luke was written around the end of the first century, approximately seven or eight decades after the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and it was written for a predominately Gentile (non-Jewish) community. This Gospel demonstrates that God's promises through the Prophets of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus and that these promises extend to Gentiles also. Luke invites his readers to follow the example of Jesus and care deeply for people whom we often neglect and overlook in our world, namely the poor, the ill, and the vulnerable. This concern for the neglected is present from the very beginning of the Gospel. In the first chapter, God chooses Mary, a young, poor girl of no status, to be the mother of Jesus, and in Mary's song—the Magnificat—she extols God's mercy and love for the humble and lowly. The writer of Luke's Gospel was also the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, which is understood to be the sequel to Luke's Gospel.

The Season of Advent – What is it?

To understand the season of Advent, it is helpful to understand the shape of the church year – what we call the liturgical calendar – which operates differently from the standard calendar (Jan.-Dec.) year that orders nearly every aspect of our lives. The church year is designed to help us walk through the life of Jesus each year. The church year is anchored by the two most significant events of Jesus's life – his birth (incarnation) and his resurrection – so the celebrations of Christmas and Easter give shape and structure to the rest of the church year. Christmas and Easter are so important that they are not just celebrated on single days (Christmas Day and Easter Sunday); rather, each of these events is celebrated with an entire season. The Christmas Season spans the twelve days from Christmas Eve to January 6th, and the Easter Season spans the fifty days from Easter Sunday through the Feast of Pentecost.

Each of these festive seasons is preceded by a season of preparation. In preparation for the Easter Season, we observe the season of Lent, which spans the forty weekdays (Mondays-Saturdays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter Sunday. In preparation for Christmas, we observe the season of Advent, which spans the weeks containing the four Sundays before Christmas Eve.

We mark this preparatory season of Advent by using either violet (purple) or blue in the hangings on the altar, counting the Sundays by lighting candles on the Advent wreath, and keeping decorations in the church to a minimum. Whereas secular society tends to start celebrating Christmas at the end of November and wraps up Christmas a day or two after Christmas Day, the church doesn't officially begin celebrating Christmas until Christmas Eve and continues the celebration until January 6th. There are two themes you will hear in the Bible readings used during Advent. The first theme is that of waiting for the birth of the promised Messiah (Jesus). The second theme you will hear in the readings is the promise that Jesus will return in the "fullness of time." So, in the season of Advent we prepare to celebrate his first coming or "Advent" at Christmas as well as look to his second coming or "Second Advent" in the fullness of time.

Three Suggestions for Observing Advent

Faithfully observing Advent is a challenge since the rest of the world has already moved onto Christmas, and let's be honest, patiently and expectedly waiting for something is not a virtue that is valued in our rather impatient culture. There are, though, some simple ways to help you observe this season. First, use an Advent wreath. An Advent wreath consists of four candles – three blue or purple candles and one pink or rose-colored candle. Each Sunday during Advent, light an additional candle. The pink/rose candle is used on the third Sunday of Advent. Second, pace yourself with your decorating, adding to your decorations each week during the season rather than putting up all your decorations at once. This approach will help you experience a sense of anticipation and growing expectation. Finally, consider adding a regular practice of prayer and/or silence to your daily routines during this season.