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# ✠ First Sunday of Advent ✠

ORDER OF WORSHIP • DECEMBER 1, 2024 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

### ✠ OPENING HYMN

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY,  
JESUS IS CALLING

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling  
calling for you and for me.**

**See on the portals he's waiting and watching  
watching for you and for me.**

*REFRAIN*    **"Come home, come home!  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!**

**Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. *REFRAIN***

### ✠ INVOCATION

**WL:**    In In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,  
✠ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into  
the light of grace.

**All:**    **Amen.**

### ✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

**WL:**    Let us confess our sins to God, who loves us with an unending love,  
who is patient and full of compassion, and who calls us to return  
from our wandering and come home in this Advent season.

*a time of silence for reflection*

**WL:**    God of compassion, we confess to you and to one another our sins in  
thought, word and deed; what we have done, and what we have left  
undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not  
loved our neighbors as ourselves. Come, Lord Jesus.

**All:**    **Lead us home.**

WL: God of unending love, we pray weekly that *YOUR* kingdom come, yet we so often work, and watch, and wait for our own kingdom to come. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Come, Lord Jesus.

**All: Lead us home.**

WL: God of surpassing peace, we confess that we have not always followed your way. We have responded to violence with more violence, to hatred with more hatred. Lead us in paths of justice and call to us to lives of service. Teach us to share with all in need, to turn our swords into plowshares, to forgive others as you forgive us. Come, Lord Jesus.

**All: Lead us home.**

WL: Sisters and brothers, enter God's house with joy!  
Sisters and brothers, God is our home!  
Come now and hear God's life-giving Word:  
God's divine love is powerful. Our sin is washed away!  
New life takes root to grow!

WL: I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

WL: I invite you to sit as we light our first Advent candle and the soloist sings. God comes to us in love to enlighten us, to dwell in us, and to finish his new creation.

*We light the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle as the soloist sings.*

**SOLO AND WREATH  
LIGHTING**

ADVENT HYMN  
*By Don Besig and Nancy Price  
Shirley Smith, soloist*

## FIRST LESSON

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

R: Our First Lesson on this First Sunday of Advent is from the thirty-third chapter of the prophet Jeremiah.

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

“In those days and at that time  
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;  
he will do what is just and right in the land.  
In those days Judah will be saved  
and Jerusalem will live in safety.  
This is the name by which it will be called:  
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

R: Our Second Lesson is from the third chapter of First Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ VERSE

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.  
The Lord is drawing nigh. REPEAT ALL**

## ✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 19:28-40

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "The Lord needs it."

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You O Christ!**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### TODAY'S MESSAGE

#### ✠ MESSAGE HYMN

LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE STREAMS  
WOV #763, TUNE: ST. THOMAS

**Let justice flow like streams  
of sparkling water, pure,  
enabling growth, refreshing life,  
abundant, cleansing, sure.**

Let righteousness roll on  
as others' cares we heed,  
an ever-flowing stream of faith  
translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight,  
define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade  
this world our whole life through.

## ✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

WL: With the church throughout the ages, let us boldly confess our faith,  
using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into  
heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From  
thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

## GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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## ✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## ✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## ✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### COMMUNION HYMN

FLING WIDE THE DOOR

LBW #32

## ✠ DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

**All: Amen.**

## ✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**All: Amen.**

## ✠ BLESSING

WL: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

✝ SENDING SONG

ONE FOOT – LEAD WITH LOVE  
by Melanie DeMore

*CHORUS (2X)* **You gotta put one foot in front of the other  
And lead with love  
Put one foot in front of the other  
And lead with love**

Don't give up hope (**ECHO**)  
You're not alone (**ECHO**)  
Our God is here . . .  
He'll lead you home . . .

**CHORUS 2X**

Lift up your eyes . . .  
Don't you despair . . .  
Christ went before . . .  
The path is there . . .

**CHORUS 2X**

✝ SENDING

**WL:** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

# TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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**LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE STREAMS**

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**ONE FOOT – LEAD WITH LOVE**

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