

Sunday's @ 8:40 AM



Monday's 10:00 AM-1:00 PM;
2:00 PM-5:00 PM



Given By: Violet McKenney

Worship Participants:
Donna Padgette, Johnelle Mische, Steve Strange

2nd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1: 1-8

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25!Happy

Last Sunday:
November 22, 2026
Attendance: 93
(in person & online)
Offering: $5,055

QR Code for Offering & Donations

OR Text EIUMCGIVE to 73256

Prayer Requests

Bob Spratlin, Jim Whitesell, Patti Smyer, Haley Davis, Violet McKenney, The Loy Family, Duncan Bunch, Reynolds Hayden, Alex Cone, Tommy Keller, Donna Padgette, Butch Evans, Beth Warshaw, Bob Foster, Dylan Rearden, Ann Bond, Lacey Reeves, Laura & Jim Emory, Ethelynn Booser, Nancy Culclasure, Lauren (Donna's niece), Thomas Tindall, Buff Yelton, Dawn & Berry Wren, Morgan Family









1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

PRELUDE "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" - Nicolai
GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
***SHARING THE PEACE**
You are invited to share the Peace of Christ with your neighbor. You may say: "The Peace of Christ be with you." And they may answer, "And also with you".
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Henry & Harriet Tindall
The prophet Isaiah prayed, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down." Advent begins with that longing. We look at our world, our community, and sometimes our own lives, and we know that all is not yet as God intends. Yet we do not wait without hope. Scripture reminds us that God is faithful.Jesus tells us to keep awake, to keep watch, and to continue the work God has given us to do. Today we light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope.
(One blue candle is lit)
This small flame does not remove all the darkness.
It reminds us that the darkness is not all there is.
Christ has come.
Christ comes among us.
Christ will come again.
People of God, while we are waiting, will we keep awake?
We will watch for Christ and live in hope.
Will we tend the house God has entrusted to us, loving our neighbors, serving those in need, and watching for signs of God's grace?
With God's help, we will.
***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP# 204** "Emmanuel"
CALL TO WORSHIP
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
In a world that waits and longs for hope, Christ calls us to keep awake.
We will watch for the signs of God's grace.
In the darkness, God gives us light. In our uncertainty, God remains faithful.
We wait in hope, for Christ has come, Christ comes among us, and Christ will come again.
People of God, keep awake! The Lord is coming.
Let us worship God with hope.
***OPENING PRAYER**
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray:
F**aithful God, we enter this season of Advent waiting for you. Awaken us from everything that keeps us from noticing your presence. Open our eyes to the grace already moving among us and open our hearts to the people you have given us to love.**
When the world seems dark, teach us to hope.
When we become discouraged, remind us that you are faithful.
When waiting becomes difficult, give us courage to continue the work Christ has entrusted to us. Come among us again this day. Shape us, as a potter shapes the clay, into people who are ready to receive Christ and willing to share his hope with the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our coming Lord.
Amen.

***HYMN #730** "O Day of God, Draw Nigh"
PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON
Christ calls us to keep awake, yet we know how easily we become distracted, discouraged, and spiritually drowsy. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins together.
Merciful God, you call us to watch and wait, but too often we become distracted. We fail to notice your presence. We overlook our neighbors. We become discouraged by the darkness and forget your promise of light.
Forgive us when we wait for you but neglect the work you have given us to do. Awaken us by your grace. Open our eyes to your presence, our hearts to our neighbors,
and our lives to your purposes.
Restore us, O God. Let your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.
(Let us confess our sins in silence)
Hear the good news: God is faithful. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. That proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
God of hope, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, awaken us. Give us ears to hear your promise, eyes to recognize your grace, and hearts ready to follow Christ. Speak, Lord, for your people are listening. Amen.
OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 64:1-9
PSALTER #823 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
***GOSPEL LESSON** Mark 13: 24-37

SERMON "While We Are Waiting"

***SPECIAL MUSIC** "Prince of Peace- Josh Baldwin (Solo, Baxter Whitesell)
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 "The Apostles' Creed, Traditional Version"
GLORIA PATRI #70 "Glory Be to the Father"
PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER #895
OFFERING
SPECIAL MUSIC "Come As You Are"- David Crowder (Solo, Baxter Whitesell)
***DOXOLOGY #95** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
OFFERING PRAYER
Gracious God, you have given us more than we could ever earn or deserve. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our desire to serve Christ our King. Use them to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, care for the suffering, and bring hope to those who feel forgotten. May our giving become another way your grace takes flesh in the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN #206** "I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light"

***SENDING FORTH & BENEDICTION**
Go now into the world with eyes open to recognize Christ.
See him in the hungry and the lonely, in the stranger and the suffering, in the forgotten and the least among us.
Go in grace, love generously, welcome freely, and let your life quietly proclaim:
Christ reigns.
May the grace of Jesus Christ our King, the love of God,
and the power of the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see Christ in your neighbor, hearts ready to love, and courage to serve. Go in peace, and may the way you live bear witness that Christ is King. **Amen**.

Post-Sermon Reflection
"While We Are Waiting"
Mark 13:24–37 | First Sunday of Advent
Key Verse:
"Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come."
Mark 13:33

Think About It
Advent reminds us that waiting for Christ is not passive. Jesus tells his disciples to **"keep awake."** We wait by paying attention to God, loving our neighbors, doing the work Christ has given us, and trusting that even in the darkness, **God is faithful.**
Reflect
1. **Where are you longing for God to "come down" and bring restoration right now?**
2. **What might Jesus mean when he tells you to "keep awake"?**
3. **What work has God placed before you while you wait?**

This Week
Choose **one intentional act of Advent watchfulness**: notice someone who needs encouragement, offer mercy, help someone in need, spend time in prayer, or simply slow down enough to notice where God may already be at work.
Carry This With You
Christ has come.
Christ comes among us.
Christ will come again.
While we wait, **stay awake, do the work God has given you, watch for grace, and trust the One who is coming. God is faithful.**

Rev. Len Ripley