

Grace United Church
Advent 1
November 27, 2022, 10:30am
Communion Service

God Gathers Us with Grace

Welcome, Announcements & Acknowledgement

Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Light and Advent 1 Candle:

*Sunday school child's family will light the Advent candle1 and read...
As a reminder of the order of our candle, the first candle, which is purple,
symbolizes Hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in
remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of
Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming
Messiah.*

There once was someone who did such amazing things
that people just had to ask him "Who are you?" And
he said, "I am the Light!"

**(All) With this good news we light the candle of Hope on
this First Sunday of Advent. This candle represents
many things; vulnerability, feelings and needs.**

**Gracious One, be our light now and strengthen us
for the journey. Amen.**

When music starts, family will go back to their seat

Introit

VU 7, vs. 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.**

Call to Worship

Enter into the Advent story which is filled with wonder and
mystery.

A story that began so long ago.

A story that reaches through the ages.

A story that belongs to all of us.

Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

**Loving God of a hope-filled people, we gather here today
to remember the story of your gift to us. A gift, born into
the tiny body of your son, a gift that grew until it
encompassed the entire world. A gift of beauty, of
kindness and of deep abiding love. A gift given freely to
all. As winter settles in around us, we begin to retell the
story of that gift in word, play, song and prayer. Be with
us here as we remember the wonder. Amen.**

Opening Hymn:

VU 1 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Prayer of Confession

God of hope, we confess that we often prefer
accepting half-truths and pleasing ideas,
rather than your challenging word.

**We praise our own cleverness rather than your wisdom.
We have exploited others for our benefit
and used the earth without a thought for its wellbeing.**

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are, and direct who we shall be
through the mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

...silence is kept...

Words of Affirmation

Receive the Good News in hope. With great mercy,
God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ.
**Trust in the hope that you are forgiven and that,
with God, new things are possible. Amen**

Children's Time

Hymn of Praise

MV 33 "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope"

this wine the medium of our transformation,
this table the foundation of our renewal,
and this community the place of our rebirth.

As our Lord taught us, we now pray:

The Story of the Last Supper

At this time, we remember Jesus,
Who on the night before he died,
took a loaf of bread,
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
“This is the new covenant; remember me.”
Gracious God, Breath of peace,
Source of love,
we pray for your Spirit.

Make us, while many, one.

Make us, though broken, whole.

Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

And so we join with our siblings around the world in the prayer
of Jesus:

Sharing the bread and cup

The body of Christ,

the Bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ,

the cup of blessing.

Let us eat and drink together
for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world.

VU 466 Eat This Bread

Communion is served

*We would serve the choir and music director first and ask people who want to
serve elements at their seat (one or two people will help them).*

Prayer After Communion

**We thank you, God,
for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.
We thank you, God,
for this meal of thanksgiving
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**

Responding to God’s Word

The Gift of our Offering

Hymn: MV 187 “We Give our thanks to God

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

Sending Us in God’s Love

Hymn: VU 43 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Benediction

God, our hope and our help, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude
for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so
that hope will sprout in people who struggle with despair, and places
trying to rebuild after devastating loss. Be their hope and their help,
through Christ our Lord.

Choral Response: MV 221 I Am Walking a Path of Hope

Postlude