

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 · GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN BOLD, THIS NOTATION · MEANS "PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT"



PRELUDE Wachtel Auf Jeremy Hill
mel. Nicolai; harm. Bach

WELCOME Deacon Leslie McAllister

• OPENING HYMN Come O Fount of Every Blessing
See page 5

CALL TO WORSHIP Written by Thom Shuman
Led by Laurie Chalmers

In this uncertain season of Advent, we wait.

Hoping, hoping God is coming to us.

In the vagueness of these days, we try to listen.

Hoping, hoping the Word will be whispered to us.

In the weariness of our times, we wait, we listen, we watch.

Hoping, hoping the Spirit will be found in our midst.

WE SOUND THE BELL

WE LIGHT THE CANDLE OF HOPE Mary Jane Swanson

Emmanuel, God be with us in the week to come, lighting hope on the wick of our lives so that we may shine Your hope in our world. Amen

MUSICAL RESPONSE O Come, O Come, Thomas Helmore
Emmanuel

WE PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANTHEM Almost There First Church Virtual
Grant, King, Smith; arr. Sorenson Senior Choir

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each event is hyperlinked to the zoom meeting link, except for the livestreamed events, which links to our Online Worship page on our website.

Today, Sunday, November 29

♥ [Livestreamed Worship, 10 am](#)

♥ [Advent Drive Thru, 12-1 pm](#)

Tuesday, December 1

♥ [Staff Meeting, 9:30 am](#)

♥ [Prayer Group Online, 1:30 pm](#)

♥ [Advent Study Group, 6:30 pm](#)

Wednesday, December 2

♥ [Tea time with Rev. Emily, 11 am](#)

♥ [Leadership Meeting, 3:15 pm](#)

Thursday, December 3

♥ [Virtual Choir Meet Up, 6:30 pm](#)

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE

"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."

-Meister Eckhart

As we name the abundant blessings of our lives (anniversaries, birthdays, clean-and-sober milestones, and many more!), we offer a gratitude gift in any amount, so that the blessings we have received from God may be multiplied and shared with all who long to experience God's extravagant welcome in this church and beyond.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

Sandy Wissmann

*Go now in peace! Go now in peace!
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go!*

SHARING OUR SACRED STORY

Reader: Friends, hear what the Spirit is saying to the church today.

PSALM 71:1-3, 4-6, 14-23

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be disappointed.
In your justice, rescue me, deliver me,
incline your ear to me and save me.
Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

For you alone are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
I have relied on you from the womb,
you sustained me from my mother's breast;
To you I give constant praise.

But I will hope continually,
and will praise you yet more and more.
My lips will proclaim your deeds of justice and salvation all day long,
though their number is past my knowledge.

O God, I will enter your mighty Temple
And there proclaim your justice.

You taught me when I was young,
and I am still proclaiming your marvels.
So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,



let me live to tell the coming generation
 about your strength and power.
 Your justice, O God,
 Is higher than the heavens.
 You have done great things;
 O God, who is like you?
 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
 will revive me again;
 from the depths of the earth
 you will bring me up again.
 You will increase my honor,
 and comfort me once again.
 I will also praise you with the harp
 for your faithfulness, O my God;
 I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
 O Holy One of Israel.
 My lips will sing for joy while I play for you –
 My whole being, which you have redeemed, will sing. Amen.

MARK 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Reader: This is the story of life for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!



SERMON

The Rev. Emily C. Goodnow

•HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
See page 6-7

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 sins as we forgive those who have
 sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

AN OFFERING OF LOVE AND PROMISE

Bob & Debbie McBride

OFFERTORY

Aberystwyth
Parry

Jeremy Hill

• WORDS OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God for all that Love has done;
 Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Loving and Holy God; pour out Your blessing on these gifts offered to You in love
 and meant to ensure the continuation of the work of Your disciples through this
 church. Guide us and shape us as servants of love; using these gifts to make our
 church and your world even more kind, loving and welcoming for all. Amen**

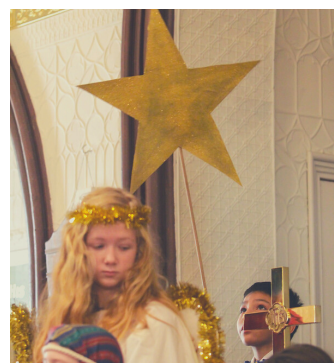
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Genevan 42
Bourgeois

Jeremy Hill

SERVICE CREDITS: Call to worship by Thom Shuman and published in "Advent 1-B liturgy in a time of
 pandemic" on his website: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2020/>



NURTURE

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Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5

Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
Marty Haugen, 1983

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ADVENT

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G 1-3 G/B C 4 G/B C G

lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice.
 weap - ons are bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.