

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday 29th November

Order of Worship

Opening Hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus TIS#272
(Tune: 'Hyfrydol')

Come, thou long expected Jesus
born to set thy people free
From our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king
Born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

(Charles Wesley 1707-88)



Advent of UCA
50th Anniversary

Lighting of the First Advent Candle
Advent is a time of wonder – the wonder of the Promised One. On this first Sunday of Advent we light this candle for hope, and we wonder.
How do we hold on to hope when so many live in poverty and despair?
We light this candle for hope, and we wonder.
God is our hope!
We light this candle for hope,
And we know the wonder of the Promised One who gives us this gift of hope even when all seems hopeless.

Hymn: Light One Candle for Hope TIS #286
Light one candle for hope,
One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart.
He comes! He comes! *(repeat)*
(Natalie Sleeth 1930-92)

Welcome and & Acknowledgement of Country

Call to Worship
Hear the invitation of the prophet Isaiah:
Come, let us go up to God's holy mountain –
So that we may learn to walk in God's ways.
God will judge between nations, and decide for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation.
Neither shall they learn war anymore.
Let us come before God to learn the ways of peace.

Invocation
Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray that you will make us watchful as we await the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in your newness of life. Through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Passing of the Peace

Hymn: Hark! A Herald Voice Is Calling TIS#264

Hark! A herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
Waken, children of the day!'

Wakened by the solemn warning
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb so long expected
Comes with pardon now from heav'n;
Let us meet him with repentance
Pray that we may be forgiv'n.

So when love comes forth in judgment,
Debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
Faithful may he find his servants
Watching till the dawn appear.

(Edward Caswell 1814-78)

Song before Early Word *(words: Olivia Hill) to the tune of Jingle Bells*

Chorus: ***Worship him! Worship Him! Infant in the Hay.***
Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day-ay!
Celebrate! Celebrate! Hear God's children sing!
Come and seek the manger where lies the infant king.

Infant in the hay, saviour of the earth,
Donkey, sheep and ox help celebrate his birth.
Born that blessed night; hear the angels sing.
Star of David, light the home of Bethlehem's infant king. ***Chorus***

Shepherds tending sheep, first to see the star.
Spread the joyful news, sent the message far.
"Peace for all the earth, goodwill from God, too."
Angels sang on high that night, what Mary's child would do. ***Chorus***

Bethlehem was full, no room anywhere.
No place for the child, just a stable bare.
Magi from the east, following David's star,
Brought him incense, gold and myrrh, and wonders from afar. ***Chorus***

Early Word

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 [a]as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! **3** When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. **5** You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. **6** We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. **7** There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered[c] us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. **9** Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Responsive

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel that led Joseph like a flock.
Enthroned high on the cherubim:
Shine out, O shine out, O shine out in power and might.
Restore us again, O Lord God of hosts, and show us the light of your face and your grace and we shall be saved.

Before all of your children show your power, come to save us.
O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you show your anger at your people's prayer?
Restore us again, O Lord God of hosts, and show us the light of your face and your grace and we shall be saved

You have fed us with tears, tears to drink in good measure.
All our enemies mock us.
Why have you made us the victim of our neighbours' scorn?
Restore us again, O Lord God of hosts, and show us the light of your face and your grace and we shall be saved

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, who you made strong for yourself. O give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us again, O Lord God of hosts, and show us the light of your face and your grace and we shall be saved

Mark 13:24-37

24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from
heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will
see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the[a] elect from the four
winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 "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. 29 So also, when
you see these things taking place, you know that he[b] is near, at the very
gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these
things have taken place.

[31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
[32] "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. [3] Be aware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] 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. [35] 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, [36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
[37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Message Rev. Sharon Hollis

Hymn: The King of Glory Comes TIS#279

Chorus: ***The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices,***
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory, how shall we call him?
He is Immanuel, the promised of ages. ***Chorus***

In all of Galilee, in city or village,
he goes among his people curing their illness. ***Chorus***

Sing then of David's son, our Saviour and brother;
In all of Galilee was never another. ***Chorus***

He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation;
He took upon himself the sins of the nation. ***Chorus***

He conquered sin and death, he truly has risen,
And he will share with us his heavenly vision. ***Chorus***
(William Francis Jabusch b.1930)

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever! Amen!

Call to Give - Blessing of the Offerings

Notices & reminder of lunch arrangements

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel TIS # 265

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O dayspring, come
and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

(Anon/Source unknown)

Benediction