

Celebration of the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning.
As the candles are lit and the baptismal waters are poured, let us recognize God's presence among us.*

Prelude Hyoun Joo Song

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Jody Andrade

Introit (8:30) Hyoun Joo
(11:00) A Joyful Noise
"Carol of the Bells"
Mykola Leontovych, composer

***Call to Worship**
One: Keep awake!
All: We do not know when God will come.
One: Will we be ready? Will we be prepared?
All: We are standing in God's presence, alert and ready to receive God's word.
One: The night is passing. The day of salvation is near.
All: We wait for our king! How will we recognize him?
One: He was born into this world as a poor Jewish child in a foreign land.
All: We will cast aside our expectations. We will scan the night sky for the star. We will scan the faces of all whom we meet to recognize the Christ in them. We know that our Lord will come again soon. We are awake!

***Hymn 105** *"People, Look East"*
(stanzas 1, 4 and 5)

Lighting of the Advent Candle Rev. Andy Acton
All: The first advent candle is the candle of expectation. We wait for the salvation God has promised us. We look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

Hymn 95 *"Prepare the Way of the Lord"*
Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

Call to Confession Andy

Prayer of Confession (in unison)
Advent God, we are on the edge of our seat, waiting. We wait, full of anticipation, eager for Your arrival. And then, after a bit of time passes, our humanity takes over. We become bored. Or weary. Or distracted. Or perhaps, Holy God, we even lose hope. Forgive us. Forgive our lack of attention, lack of focus, lack of direction and lack of belief. Forgive our blindness to the needs of others. Forgive our devotion to things that are not holy. Forgive us for every way that we fall short of living as You created us to be. Return us to the edge of our seat and instill in us that joyful feeling of anticipating the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Forgiveness
Assurance of Belonging

Children's Sermon Jody
Distribution of Worship Bags

Advent is from the Latin word "adventus" which means "coming."

In 4th century Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, when the magi visited the baby Jesus.

In 6th century Rome, Christians tied Advent to the second coming of Christ.

In the Middle Ages, Christians linked Advent to the birth of Jesus.

Now, in 2017 Duluth, Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas when we look back in celebration on Christ's birth and wait eagerly for the coming of Christ's Kingdom when he returns.

Adapted from source:
Chritianity.com,
November 23, 2014
by Justin Holcomb

***Hymn 321**

"The Church's One Foundation"
(stanzas 1, 4 and 5)

Offering

Please take a moment to sign the registration pad in your pew so we can welcome you personally.

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Jennie Sankey
Offertory Hymn (8:30) *"Sleepers Awake"* by J.S. Bach Hyoun Joo
Anthem (11:00) *"I Shall Know Him"* Chancel Choir
by Wagner

Response (tune 697)
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Old Testament Scripture Isaiah 64: 1-9 Jennie

New Testament Scripture Mark 13: 24-37 Jody

Sermon "Wait, What?" Jody

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Invitation Andy
Prayer Andy

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
Jody and Jennie

Words of Institution
Serving of the Elements
When the usher indicates, please come forward. The bread will be placed in your hand ("the bread of life"). Dip the bread into the cup ("the cup of salvation") and eat it. Return to your seat for a time of prayer. Gluten-free options are available upon request.

Piano Interlude Brian Ireland
Hymn 507 *"Come to the Table of Grace"*

Benediction Jody

Postlude *"Lord Christ, The Only Son of God"* by J. S. Bach Hyoun Joo
An elder or minister is available in the Prayer Chapel for one-on-one prayer following the worship service.

**Please stand in body or spirit*



Announcements

The white rose on the table today is to honor the life of Ella Apiseh Yefenyuy, infant daughter of Mamboh and Ernest, who died Monday, November 27th.

There will be a brief **congregational meeting** following today's 11 am worship service to officially dissolve the pastoral relationship with Dr. Dave Fry, who recently retired from full time ministry. This is required by our denomination's policy, to enable our church to move forward in its search for a new head of staff.

All who trust in Jesus Christ are invited to celebrate communion with this congregation. Later today, members who are Ruling Elders and Lay Visitors will serve communion to those under our care who are unable to attend worship this morning. If you know a member who would like a Lay Visitor companion or communion extended to them after worship, please contact Rev. Jody Andrade at 770.497.0233 or jody@pleasanthillpc.org.