

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Pastor: May your hearts be filled with hope as you hear the promises God made to bless all the peoples on earth through Abraham, the father of our faith.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reading for the First Sunday of Advent from Genesis 12

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Responsive Prayer (unison)

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for Father Abraham, who trusted you enough to obey your call, leave his home and kindred and become the father of many nations. Now open our ears to hear your call, and guide us as we strive to go where you tell us. Enable us to serve you with devotion and live a more faithful life; and fill us with the hope of our Lord Jesus so that we can make it through these challenging days. Amen.

HYMN #121 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Gracious God, as we worship together, make this the hour of your coming to us. Fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit, break into our routines, and inspire our vision of what the world will be like under your coming reign, when nations will give up the ways of war and people will live in peace with each other. We are hopeful that this vision can become a reality because you are able to make it real. Dear Lord, on this first Sunday of Advent we will watch, wait, worship, and prepare ourselves to receive you. As we enter this blessed season, shine your heavenly light upon us, we pray, to illuminate our thinking and show us how to live a genuinely faithful life until Christ's triumphant return. We ask these things in the name of our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying . . .

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-27

SERMON MESSAGE: *God is Able* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious God, thank you for being our strength and support in times of need. Every moment we are alive is a gift from you. Particularly during this Advent season, we will be watching and preparing for the opportunities you constantly put before us to help others experience hope in Christ. Please bless these offerings as we dedicate them, and our very lives, to the high and holy purpose of helping to usher in your realm and bringing about the *Shalom* that humanity has been yearning for ever since you breathed life into us. Amen.

HYMN #127 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: Gracious God, send the Messiah to lead us from death to life, and from falsehood to truth.

People: Almighty God, send the Messiah to lead us from despair to hope, and from fear to trust.

Pastor: Loving God, send the Messiah to help us unlearn the ways of hate and war, and teach us how to care for one another and be peacemakers here on earth.

People: Compassionate God, send the Messiah to heal our hearts and our world of all brokenness and pain.

Pastor: Go in faith, trusting that God is able to shape a new world where all people will experience peace that surpasses all human understanding.

DISMISSAL