

## The Order of Worship

The First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2008

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Minister: Rev. James Adams

Organist/Pianist: Debbie Mink

Lay Leader: Clark Allison

Nursery: Phyllis Shepherd

Music/Worship Director: Rebecca Haywood

Secretary: Vickie Ellis

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**Bold Print** indicates a congregational response \* Indicates to stand, if able

### Gathering Before God

#### Prelude & Lighting of the Candles

*(As you prepare for worship, please take this time to register your attendance with us today. If you are visiting today, please know that you are welcome and we would like to get to know you better. If you have any questions about our church, please speak to Rev. Adams after the service.)*

#### \* Welcome and Call to Worship

Good morning!

**Good morning to you!**

This is a time to really be awake.

**For Christ shall come to us when we least expect it.**

Get ready. Be alert. Something is going to happen.

**Lord, help us open our eyes and our hearts to receive you in glory. AMEN.**

#### \* Opening Hymn *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* No. 196

#### \* The Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle - *Hope* (Isaiah 60:2-3)

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our hope.

**May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.**

**All Sing:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

#### \* Opening Prayer

Rev. Adams

#### \* A Time of Personal Greetings

### Hearing God's Word

Children's Sermon

Debbie Walker

*(Children will be dismissed for Children's Church at this time)*

Chorus of Preparation *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet* (Chorus twice)

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

Gospel Lesson Mark 13:24-37

*(after the Scripture is read, the following response)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music *When Will He Come* Chancel Choir

Today's Message "Waiting for Something To Happen"

### Responding to God

\*Hymn of Response *Take My Life and Let It Be* No. 399

\* An Affirmation of Faith No. 881

#### Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession

**Lord of Harvest and Hope, it's so soon after Thanksgiving. Our hearts, bodies, and spirits are still lethargic from the feasting and celebrating. We want to slumber and rest. Yet you call us to be awake. However, you know us too well. We want to sink back in slumber, just let this Advent season roll over us without being ready. We want to focus on our own plans, the gatherings, the gift giving, the celebrations. Keep us mindful and put us into action in situations in which we can help someone in need. Keep our hearts and spirits always open to ways of serving you by serving others, for we ask this in the name of the One who comes. AMEN.**

#### Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Debbie Mink

\* Doxology *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

### Serving God in the World

\* Benediction and Sending Forth

\* Final Song *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"* No. 209 (vs. 1)

**Tune:** *Lead On O King Eternal*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**Today:**

10:55 Morning Worship	5:30 Children's Choir
4:00 Wesley Bells	5:45 Participants line up
5:15 Chancel Choir	6:00 Hanging of the Greens

**Wednesday, December 3**

7:00 Charge Conference

**Thursday, December 4**

10:00 Sewing Circle

7:00 Boy Scouts Roundtable

**Nursery Volunteer for Today, Nov. 30 – Robin Clark**

**Nursery Volunteer for Sunday, Dec. 7 – Susan Holderby**

**Children's Church for Today, Nov. 30 – No Children's Church-Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Children's Church for Sunday, Dec. 7 – Kristin Garrett**

**Ushers for November – David Allen, Pete Greene, Marty Osborne**

**Ushers for December – Frank Fitzpatrick, Tom Hereford, Rob Herrick, Tom Smith**

**Greeters for Today, Nov. 30–**

**Greeters for Sunday, Dec. 7 – Ted and Brenda Miller**

**Record of our Faithfulness: Sunday, Nov. 23 Morning Worship –106, Sunday**

**School-45. General Fund-\$3,140.00, needed weekly-\$4,798.00, General Fund Receipts as of 11/23/08- \$170,214.15; Budget as of 11/30/08-\$214,021.50 FLC Loan repayment-\$335.00, needed weekly-\$385.00, Thanksgiving offering - \$2,610.00; Amt. as of 11/23-\$4520.00; 2007 Apportionments- \$10.00, amount to date- \$7199.00**

**Tonight** we celebrate the beginning of Advent with our 29<sup>th</sup> Hanging of the Greens. Please, bring family and friends, and come to worship with scripture and song. The service begins at 6 pm. (The nursery will be open).

**Friday, Dec. 12** the YMA will travel to the Huntington Mall for a day of shopping and fun.

The church bus will be leaving at 8:30 am. If you would like to attend, be at the church by 8:15am.

**God's Shepherds:** At this most blessed time of the year we are asking for your help in providing Christmas for our children and mothers. Christ reminds us throughout His word to take care of his children. God has blessed us with this wonderful opportunity to do just that. With your help we can provide Christmas for our families who otherwise go without. Contact Julie Paxton, 886-6451, Betty Roberts, 886-2539 or Shyla Meece, 886-6650 for more info.

**The Sewing Circle** has pecans for sale again this year. The cost is \$8.00 per lb. Contact Phyllis Herrick or any member of the Sewing Circle.