

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday
of Advent

November 30, 2025
10:30 a.m.

We are pleased to welcome all who have come to worship
with us! Your presence is a blessing.

PRELUDE: Praise Band Medley

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY: Welcome & Announcements

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

L: Today, as we begin our symbolic journey on the Advent Road,
let us prepare for Christmas not as a day or a season, but as a
condition of our hearts and minds;

**P: Let us prepare not to *spend* Christmas, but to *keep* it; let us
prepare to experience the fullness of God's revelation
of our life's meaning and purpose.**

L: Come, let us worship and bow down before the Christ who was,
and is, and is to come.

P: For he is the Savior of the world, and the hope of nations.

*OPENING HYMN: *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations* #569

*COLLECT (*unison*)

**Lord God, we come with our thirst to this oasis of living
water. We come with hearts full of joy to this hour of
celebration and love. Enfold all that we are in the
everlasting arms which reach out to us eternally; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

First Reader: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to
imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and
recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God
"shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many
peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their
spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against
nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

**All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of
God's reign has come and is coming among us.**

Second Reader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our
promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform
our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

(Lighting of the first candle)

PSALTER *Psalms 122* 845 with sung response 1

HEBREW LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

Out of the house of the Lord shall come wisdom and instruction,
and nations will convert their weapons of war into implements
for sustaining life.

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 13:11-14

Salvation draws ever nearer, so live in the fullness of Christ,
freed from the power of sinful desires.

PRAISE BAND Welcome to the Table

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

RESPONSE *Emmanuel* 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Festival Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Dedication

*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* 213

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 24:36-44

The coming of the Son of Man will be a surprise, so stay on the
lookout!

SERMON Expect the Unexpected Pastor Jim Pugh

*CLOSING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 211

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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**Let all who are able stand.*