



November 28, 2021 First Sunday of Advent

Today, we celebrate the first of four Sundays in Advent: a hope-filled season of anticipation and preparation. Our future hope is embedded in God's past faithfulness and in God's participation in the present world and in our lives. During Advent, we celebrate God's presence, and God's promise in Jesus.

PRELUDES

Advent Pastoral James Southbridge
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
Robert W. Thygerson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Cregar Family



CHORAL RESPONSE #314

Christ, Be Our Light
(verse 1)

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

(refrain)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Text by Bernadette Farrell
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CALL TO WORSHIP

L: What do we celebrate during these weeks of Advent anticipation and preparation?

P: We celebrate that the true light, which illumines everyone, has come and is coming into the world.

L: What do we gather to proclaim that we believe?

P: We know, that in the fullness of Jesus, we continue to receive grace upon grace.

L: As those who have been given the power to become children of God,

All: Let us worship the Lord!

*WELCOMING SONG #619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
(verse 1)

Lauda Anima

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise? Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 3)

***Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame, gladly all
our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same. Alleluia!
Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!***

(verse 4)

***Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face. Sun and moon
and all creation, dwellers all in time and space: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!***

Text by Henry Francis Lyte, adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center
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CALL TO CONFESSION (from Isaiah 64:9)

L: We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of steadfast love, we struggle to believe that you love us as you do. In our despair, we shut ourselves off from you; we do not listen to you or speak to you; we live as if you do not exist. Forgive us. God of faithfulness, when we wander from your care, we often treat your children with contempt and disdain; or, perhaps worse, we do not notice them at all. Forgive us. God of hope, we confess that when we live as if we ourselves were gods, we stand apart from your creation, damaging both it and ourselves. Forgive us, O God, and lead us to return to you and your unending love.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Isaiah 40:4-5)

L: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE #92

While We Are Waiting, Come *Waiting (Cason)*

(verse 1)

***While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our
Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.***

Text by Claire Cloninger
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TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. John Wahl

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see signs of your promises fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 111

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. ² Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. ³ Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. ⁴ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful. ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. ⁸ They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. ⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Christmas is Coming

Raney

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 (Common English Bible)

The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter from Jerusalem to the few surviving elders among the exiles, to the priests and the prophets, and to all the people Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon from Jerusalem.

⁴ The LORD of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away. ⁷ Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because your future depends on its welfare. ⁸ The LORD of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Don't let the prophets and diviners in your midst mislead you. Don't pay attention to your dreams. ⁹ They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I didn't send them, declares the LORD.

¹⁰ The LORD proclaims: When Babylon's seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. ¹² When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. ¹³ When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be present for you, declares the LORD, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the LORD.

SERMON

"A Message of Advent Hope"

Rev. John Wahl

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

A Tranquil Moment

Franklin Ritter

***DOXOLOGY #37**

Let All Things Now Living
(verse 1)

Ash Grove

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #378** *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*
(verse 1)

Merle's Tune

We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh, when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike; a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.

(verse 2)

Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start? We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart. Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home: we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.

(verse 3)

When wars of desolation and hate come to an end, when nation meets with nation and calls the other "friend," still peace in all its fullness will only have begun: shalom for all creation begins with justice done.

(verse 4)

That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way, to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God's newborn day. The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains, to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.

Text by Kathleen R. Moore
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***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

El Shaddai

Rouse

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on Wachet Auf

Martha Sobaje

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist / Greeters

Every Sunday, we need a smiling face to welcome our in-person worshipers ("Greeter"), and someone to help lead the worship service ("Liturgist"). You can sign up on the lists posted in the Narthex or via the SignUpGenius link on the church's website.

Health and Safety Protocols

With the return to in-person worship services, we ask you to follow these guidelines:

- Windows will be open or fans turned on to provide appropriate air circulation.
- Face coverings are recommended when inside the church building.
 - Socially distance as able in the pews and sanctuary.
 - If you are not feeling well today, please stay home.
- Hymnals and pew bibles have been returned to the pews. In addition, the words are printed in the bulletin.
- At this time, we will not be passing the peace, the offering plate, or holding hands for the benediction at the close of the service.
- After the worship service has concluded, we ask that you move outside for any extended conversations.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Any changes to these protocols will be shared in advance of Sunday gatherings.



Flowers

The flowers are dedicated by Alan & Ruth Gurd in thankful memory of loved ones.

A Simple Christmas

A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS will be presented on Sunday, December 12th during the worship service by the Valley Adult Choir and Parker and Payton Timmons. We are all blessed to, once again, welcome the birth of our Savior and share in the simple message that he brought:

LOVE



Please consider attending Sunday, December 12, and experiencing through music the simplest of gifts.....the baby Jesus.



Christmas Alternative Gift Giving

Valley is participating in Alternative Gifts, again, this Christmas season. We have three options: The Dougbe School, Heifer, and Presbyterian Giving. Catalogs are available for you to take home and order. They are on the table in the Narthex and, also, outside of Fellowship Hall. Please consider giving a gift that will truly help people in need. Thank you, The Mission Commission

Offering Envelopes for 2022

For those that receive offering envelopes, please retain the current box you have for 2022. Please look for replacement envelopes in the Narthex. A pack of 30 envelopes is labeled with your name. If at any time you are in need of more, please contact the office. If you do not receive envelopes and would like to, please contact the office.

Annual Christmas Angel Tree Project



Our Angel gifts this year will consist of collecting gift cards and pajamas for teens from Chagrin Falls Park Community Center (CFPCC). Please purchase \$25 gift cards from Walmart or Target, or buy pajamas for teens. Most teens wear adult sizes. The CFPCC is not collecting toys this year. Please bring the gift cards or pajamas to the church by December 12. There will be a box in the hall across from Fellowship Hall starting December 1. Thank you for your continuing generosity to this program. The Mission Commission

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items for November to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



Jellied cranberry sauce, garlic powder, onion powder, Jiffy corn bread mix, oil, shortening, white sugar, brown sugar.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:
Friday, December 3 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, December 4 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

The store will be closed for the month of January, 2022.

Worship Commission

We are looking for some new members on our Worship Commission! After many years of good and faithful service, Jeanne Delany is leaving the Commission. Jeanne has been responsible for changing the "antependium" in the Sanctuary, and we are searching for her replacement! (Antependium is the fancy word for the cloths that hang on the pulpit and communion table!) Email Beth Krause at bethkrause00@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining the Commission.

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Greeters: The Cregar Family