

1st Sunday of Advent

HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 1)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us praise God, who enlightens every heart, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Today we begin the season of Advent.

We open our hearts to God's love

as we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives and homes.

The candles of this wreath remind us

that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin

and lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:1-2, 5-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,

As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,

as men make merry when dividing spoils.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;

upon his shoulder dominion rests.

They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,

Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

His dominion is vast and forever peaceful,

From David's throne, and over his kingdom,

which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice,

both now and forever.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

INTERCESSIONS:

Christ came to bring us hope. Let us pray that we may be always ready to welcome him.
Our response is "Come, Lord Jesus."

That the Advent season may bring us closer to God and each other, we pray to the Lord.
All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the light of Christ may be a beacon of hope for all who are lost, we pray to the Lord.
All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

That those who are homeless or suffer in the cold may find relief, we pray to the Lord.
All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

That this wreath may constantly remind us to be Christ to others, we pray to the Lord.
All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

(Other petitions may be offered here.)

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us offer our prayer to the Father:
All: **Our Father . . .**

Leader: May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his kingdom, now and forever.
All: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

Leader: Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

(The first candle is lit.)

HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 2)

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