



The People of God in Worship

December 2, 2018

Eleven O'Clock in the Morning

First Sunday of Advent

THE GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kears

To our Guests, Members, and Friends: In the pew rack you will find a small brochure to give us the opportunity to get to know you and serve you better. Fill in where appropriate, and place it in the collection plate. Welcome and thank you!

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kears

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you!

Reply: **And also with you!**

THE PRELUDE

Please consider the prelude as an invitation to quietly, reverently prepare yourself for worship.

SYMBOLS OF ADVENT AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Jean Cook and Sarah Raessler

Colors-Green, Red, Gold, Purple, Pink, and White

Leader: We enter a season of hope with the evergreens which show our belief in never-ending life.

People: With green and red we show our hopeful faith.

Leader: We enter a season of peace, with gold and purple, to show the reign of God over our lives.

People: With gold and purple we show our trust in the will of God as ruler over our lives.

Leader: We enter a season of joy, which passes understanding, which we show with one pink candle.

People: With a pink candle, we show our commitment to finding light and joy.

Leader: We enter a season of love, with white and red flowers, to show the purity of God's love for us.

People: With white and red we acknowledge God's love for us.

All: We celebrate the Season of Light, and set our hearts toward the advent of Emmanuel!

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 244**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

***INVOCATION**

Sarah Raessler

***ADVENT SONG** (verse 1 - sheet music in pew rack)

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Deborah Raessler

Leader: A word from God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 1:17-25

Deborah Raessler

Leader A word from God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

**CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF COMMUNITY,
THE MORNING PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

THE OFFERTORY HYMN No. 245 (remain seated)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

***THE GIFTS**

*Offertory Moment and Prayer

Deborah Raessler

Offertory Anthem

Advent Cry

Joseph M. Martin

*Doxology - No. 815

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

THE MESSAGE

The Thing With Feathers

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The Community

All are invited to share the bread and the cup, waiting for all to be served.

The Bread: This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this to remember me.

The Cup: This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself at this time. If you prefer not to present yourself, you may speak to the minister after the service to effect membership. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a profession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to renew their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

Advent Alleluia

arr. Keith Christopher

***THE POSTLUDE**

*The ushers will seat those waiting.

*Those who are able will please stand.

*Hearing aids are available from the ushers.

Offertory Emphasis

During this past year we have given more than \$11,000 to missions and denominational relationships. For these last weeks of the year, we celebrate all of those associations. This week we celebrate the ways we were able to help people have a good place to live, through Habitat for Humanity, Miriam's House, the Miller Home, and others like Churches for Urban Ministry and Interfaith Outreach Association which help people stay in their homes.

Please join me in prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for our warm homes and for the ability to help others keep their homes or get a home to live in. Thank you for opening our eyes to the needs of others, and for giving us pathways through which we can help those who need housing find a place that is safe and warm, just like ours. Thank you for the joy of sharing, and for the chance to work together with others. Amen.