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November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.
All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Carols – VU #64 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
VU #75 “Good Christian Friends”

Follow the Star – Hope - Lighting of Advent Wreath

Sung Response – Give Us Hope

**Give us hope for the world, while we're waiting,
Give us hope for ourselves, we pray,
Give us hope for your love and your healing,
Give us hope for a brand new day.**

**Light a candle, light a candle,
Light a candle while we wait and pray.
Light a candle, light a candle,
Light a candle of God's hope.**

Call to Worship

One: The mystery begins; where the winter finds its feet the rush of frost and chill competes with the old hope of incarnation.

All: Darker nights unfold and with the fading of the light the sun weakens. Are we ready for the journey? Do we dare begin?

One: From the stump of Jesse the dry old tree of David's line comes a new branch

All: Our hope lives in this new shoot, cracking through the season with a promise yet unfulfilled.

One: This is the hoping, the waiting, the advent of our journey.

All: Let us gather round the words the prophets spoke long ago and truly live in hope. Emmanuel is on the way.

* Hymn VU #1 – “O Come, O Come Emanuel”

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Lord of Hope, dare I? Can I really hope? From out of the darkness I sense a dim light ahead, the light of your coming into the world signaled in a star shining in the night sky. I so long for the time when you are no longer hidden from me and my deepest desire is to trust in your warm voice I hear behind me, guiding me along a hidden path I do not know. Dry my tears, heal my wounds

and help me to wait for the dawning of the dim light ahead, with a brighter vision of healing and freedom. Sometimes God, we are afraid to begin this journey towards you. We are afraid of the unknown out there in the darkness, it is easier to just stay where we are, to just be who we are, to just live out the status quo. But you call us into new places God of Hope. You call us to become more in You. Give us the courage to begin this journey this Advent, to truly follow the star. AMEN

Words of Assurance

Children's Time / The Lord's Prayer

* Hymn VU #91 – “The First Noel”

The Word



Scripture Reading – Isaiah 2: 1-5

Romans 13: 11-14

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Meditation – “What is it to hope today?”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – “Seekers of Light”

The Response

Announcements / Minute Persons – Doug Waldron

* Offering / Response VU 94 v. 1 tune VU 624

**Lovely star in the sky, banishing the night,
Shine down and hallow us, light our dark path.
Star shining in the east, be our true guide;
Lead us to worship him, worship the Child.**

Prayers of the People

* Hymn VU #93 – “When Heaven's Bright with Mystery”

* Benediction / Response

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

Patrick Woodbeck, Student Minister

Luci Toews, Office Administrator

Douglas Gauthier & Gloria Waldron, Nursery Care

Gwen Polak, Liturgist

Laura Steidl, Music Director

Myrna Hagues, Organist

Gina Grant, Custodian

Gillian Foster and Catherine Green, Ushers

Kent & Linda Stewart, Greeters