

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Worship Service – First Sunday of Advent – November 29, 2020

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Prelude

Welcome and Opening Prayer

**adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion
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God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you, you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead you are born among us as an infant. Instead you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

Call to Worship

selections from Isaiah 64; Mark 13; Mark 1

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Be alert! Keep awake!

The time is drawing near: the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!

People: Make a highway in the desert for our God.

(Isaiah 40:3)

...

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

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

(Isaiah 9:2)

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #9

Confession

Isaiah 64:6

"We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out – against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!

Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope restored. For after all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new.

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(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace

1 Corinthians 1:8-9

“He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

Revealing Times

Hymn

The Days are Surely Coming
Glory to God Hymnal, #357

Dedication of Stewardship Pledges

Leader: Lord and Creator of all, the earth is yours,
the world and all who live in it.

People: **You have entrusted us with gifts—
time, talent, energy, and money—
and called us to be good stewards.
With thanks and praise we respond to your call.**

Leader: We bring these gifts you have given,
presenting them and ourselves as living sacrifices.

People: **We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes,
our dollars and our hours.
We commit ourselves to work for your world,
to love and serve wherever you call.**

Leader: We ask your blessing on this, the ministry of your church,
as we seek to follow you with our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

People **Bless also these gifts,
our investment in the future to which you have called us,
that they may serve You and Your Kingdom.**

Leader: May these gifts and commitments be a sign of our gratitude and our
thanksgiving, that by giving we may become more generous, more
hopeful, and more loving.

**ALL: For these, and all Your blessings, we give you thanks and praise, O
God. Amen.**

Offering

1 Corinthians 1:5-6

"...for in every way you have been enriched in him...just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you..."

Please prayerfully consider the time, talents, or gifts you have received, and how you can give them back to God in love and service to others.

Prayer of Dedication

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Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 1:5, 9)

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering
Betty Conlon, Mission Committee

The Prayers of the People

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God of power and glory, we remember your awesome deeds across the ages – the times you saved us and brought us home. Yet, we also remember times when we felt alone and afraid. O God, we are your people, the work of your hand. Look upon us with your shining face, especially in the time of need.

We pray for those who look to you for healing and hope...
Those who are sick or recuperating from illness and injury...
Those who are lonely and need companionship and care...
Those for whom the holidays bring sorrow or pain...
Those whose deep sadness overshadows joy.
Let your face shine upon them and us, O God.

We pray for people in need of restoration and reconciliation:
For those battling addictions and those in recovery ...
for people estranged from those they love ...
for someone lost in grief ...
for someone far from home.
Let your face shine upon them and us, O God, that we might be saved.

Renew the spirit of a world grown weary with waiting and hoping.

Especially we pray for wars to end, for hunger and poverty to be crowded out by abundance. And we pray, too, for the church because we also grow weary in our waiting and watching for your power and glory to be made known. Grant us clarity, passion, and true fellowship so that we are awake to your presence. Let your face shine upon the church and all this weary world, we pray; in the name of the One born in a manger and coming again on clouds of glory – the very one who taught us to pray together with boldness:

(Prayers of the People inspired by Psalm 80; Isaiah 64; Mark 13)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

*While We Are Waiting, Come
Glory to God Hymnal, #92*

Charge and Benediction

from Isaiah 64, Mark 13, 1 Corinthians 1

Beware. Keep Alert. Keep awake. God is doing awesome things we do not expect. And Christ is coming near with great power and glory, and with tenderness.

May God strengthen us to the end; Christ draws near to our very gates; and the Holy Spirit awakens our spirits; until with eager longing, we greet the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.