

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book (“pew pad”) where you can also record any prayer requests. Our prayer is that you will experience the presence of the Living God as we worship together.

We invite you to focus your heart and mind in worship.

** indicates please stand as you are able.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Don Meekhof

PRELUDE

Piano/Organ duet

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Arr. John Innes

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pat Tucker

There will be signs in the heavens
and distress among the nations.

**When Christ returns in power and glory
people will faint with fear.**

But when you see these things, lift up your heads:

our redemption is drawing near!

Heaven and earth may pass away,

but the Word of God will stand unshaken.

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*SONG OF WORSHIP:

“COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

(Hymn #135)

(VERSE 1)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

(VERSE 2)

Born thy people to deliver,

born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Carole & Jason Stuart

Please remain seated to sing the first verse of the hymn

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

(Hymn #133)

(VERSE 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

TIME OF PRAYER

Pat Tucker

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Call to Confession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down
by the sins and worries of this life,
but watch and pray for the grace of God,
who will save you in your time of trial.
With confidence in God's mercy,
let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, have mercy on us.
We are not ready for your coming.
We live in sin,
We live in fear,
as though there were no grace.
Forgive us, Lord.
Show us your mercy and steadfast love.
Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths,
for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.**

[Silent Prayer]

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord guide your way,
strengthen you in all holiness,
and make you abound in love
for one another and for all.

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SONG OF WORSHIP:

please remain seated

"PEOPLE, LOOK EAST"

(VERSE 1)

People, look east.

The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east, and sing today
Love, the Guest is on the way.

(VERSE 2)

Furrows, be glad.

Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there,

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east, and sing today
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

(VERSE 3)

Stars, keep the watch.

When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,

shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east, and sing today
Love, the Star, is on the way.

(VERSE 4)

Angels announce.

with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth,

Set ev'ry peak and valley humming,
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Don Meekhof

OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

Joyce Miller

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Invitation to the Offering

Trusting in the sure promises of Christ,
and grateful for the Spirit's sustaining power,
let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

God of righteousness,
you have saved us from the worst the world can do
and have promised to redeem the whole creation when
Christ comes again.

In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self,
that we may be part of what you are doing in the world
even now,

as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. **Amen.**

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Please be seated. The ushers will pass the offering plates.

The children are excused at this time to attend Junior Chapel.

Offertory "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Organ
Dennis Elliot

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Galen Miller

Psalm 95:1–7a (NIV)

¹ "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
³ For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Matthew 2:1–11 (NIV)

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the

house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

MESSAGE

Rev. Don Meekhof

“Windows on Worship of Christ”

Sermon Text: When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. *(They Worshiped Him.)* – Matthew 2:10-11a (NRSV)

***SONG OF WORSHIP:**

“O WORSHIP THE KING”

(Hymn #29)

(VERSE 1)

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

(VERSE 2)

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

(VERSE 3)

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

(VERSE 4)

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and friend.

SHARING AROUND CHRIST’S TABLE—COMMUNION

Rev. Don Meekhof

Christ becomes a part of our flesh through Holy Communion.

The Lord’s Supper is not an end in itself. It always points beyond itself to celebrate God’s grace and covenant faithfulness. This does not mean the physical aspects of the celebration are incidental or unimportant. The Lord’s Supper should be a celebration fitting to the abundant grace of God offered in Christ.

**Invitation to the Lord’s Supper
Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup
Sharing the Body and Blood of Christ**

***CLOSING SONG**

It is the custom at Knox, in celebration of Holy Communion, to hold hands and form a circle around the sanctuary to sing our closing song...

“BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS”

(Hymn #708)

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Don Meekhof

POSTLUDE

“A Joyous Carol”

Organ

(Based on French Noel, “Quittez Pasteurs”)

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Greeting you at the door today: Pat Tucker and Galen Miller
Today’s ushers are Scott Edminster, Ray Krebs, Marie Collins, and Mary Beauregard.

In the pulpit today: Don Meekhof is our “*Temporary Stated Supply*” pastor. Those words in quotes are the official title

given by Presbytery because with Shared Ministry there is no full-time pastor. However, Don most definitely has a full-time love for shepherding the flock of Christ and we are blessed to have him with us!

Today's Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 64:1–9

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19

Mark 13:24–37

Question for Reflection

The weeks leading to Christmas are often filled with much activity. Along with work, school, and church responsibilities, there are special holiday festivities to which we will attend. Staying “awake,” as Mark 13:24-37 stresses, may not be the problem; in fact, we may feel there are not enough hours in the day! Yet, this reading from Mark counsels us to be awake to, to pay attention to, what is most needful for our well-being and the wellbeing of the world: God’s presence, God’s appearing among us. Here at the beginning of Advent, how will you “keep alert” for God in the midst of so many responsibilities and distractions?

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you, God, for the gift of life today.

I give thanks that your face shines upon me—
for you are my salvation.

Lead me like a shepherd through this day.

Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead.

Grant me the spiritual gifts
of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness,

for I want to show your love,
in word and deed, to others.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Though you have told us to keep awake, O God,
you have also blessed us with rest and sleep.

Grant me such rest in the hours ahead
that I awaken with eager longing for a new day,
ready for you to be revealed
in mundane moments and ordinary encounters.

By your grace prepare me,
whether awake or asleep,
to greet you:

in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn.

All times are in your hands,
and I, too, am in your hands, faithful God.
In Jesus' name I rest and pray. Amen.

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