



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239
804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) wrcob@wrcob.org www.wrcob.org

December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

Hope

Welcome

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Piano Guys

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Lighting the Advent Wreath

Carol Penner, Conrad Grebel College

One: Each year we light candles in Advent as a way of marking the weeks before Christmas. In the northern hemisphere, as we progress through Advent the nights get longer, and the days get shorter. Each week our Advent Candles shed more light.

Many: Today we mark the first Sunday of Advent, and today we light the candle of hope. Advent is the season of hope. We hope for a Savior who can save us, a Healer who can heal us, and a Counsellor who hears all our sorrows. In darkness that deepens, we wait for the coming of the light of the world. We wait in hope as we light this candle of hope.

* Opening Prayer

God of the promised Messiah, as we wait for the fulfillment of your promise, we watch, we listen, and we open our hearts for your Word. Show us signs of your presence: a light in the darkness, a voice in the silence, and a stirring deep within us. Amen.

* **Carol**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#265 VT

Verse 1:

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth.
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;

*Refrain: come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Verse 2:

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light;

Refrain

Verse 3:

Sages, leave your contemplations— brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great desire of nations, guided by his natal star;

Refrain

Verse 4:

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
shall behold God's love unending: Christ will once again appear;

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Children's Time (children under 5, can go to Nursery Care)

Carol

The Twelve Days of Christmas

(Advent Version)

On the first day of Christmas, our Father gave to us...

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Saving Grace of Jesus Christ | 7. Seven Days of Blessings |
| 2. Two Testaments | 8. Eight Ways of Praying |
| 3. Three Major Prophets | 9. Nine Beatitudes |
| 4. Four Gospel Books | 10. Ten Commands for Living |
| 5. Five Books of Law | 11. Eleven Godly Women |
| 6. Six Days of Work | 12. Twelve True Apostles |

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 25:4-10 NLT

⁴Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. ⁵Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you. ⁶Remember, O Lord, your compassion and unfailing love, which you have shown from long ages past. ⁷Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth. Remember me in the light of your unfailing love, for you are merciful, O Lord.

⁸The Lord is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray. ⁹He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way. ¹⁰The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.

Congregational Prayer

Carol

To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

#259 VT

Verse 1:

To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n.
Him shall the tribes of earth obey, him all the hosts of heav'n,
him shall the tribes of earth obey, him all the hosts of heav'n.

Verse 2:

His name shall be the Prince of peace, forevermore adored,
the Wonderful, the Counselor, the great and mighty Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counselor, the great and mighty Lord.

Verse 3:

His pow'r, increasing, still shall spread, his reign no end shall know.
Justice shall guard his throne above, and peace abound below,
justice shall guard his throne above, and peace abound below.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

Carol Penner, Conrad Penner College

Let this congregation be a witness to God: immersed in scripture, constant in prayer, joyful in worship, generous in giving. A loving,

supportive community reaching out to those in need. May God accept these gifts we offer, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Special Music

Peace, Peace

arr. Fred Bock

Peace, Peace by Rick Powell, Sylvia Powell' arr. Fred Bock
© 1969, 1973 Matherhorn Music (Admin. by Fred Bock Music Company)
CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 33:1-3, 14-16 NRSVUE

33 The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time while he was still confined in the court of the guard: ² Thus says the Lord who makes it, the Lord who forms it to establish it—the Lord is his name: ³ Call to me, and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Sermon

"Hope is Not Passive"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Closing Carol** *The First Noel, the Angel Did Say* #250 VT

Verse 1:

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay—
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

Verse 2:

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

Verse 3:

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far.
To seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

Verse 4:

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Verse 5:

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon the knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Refrain*

*** Benediction**




Postlude

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Robert MacGimsey

Sweet Little Jesus Boy by Robert MacGimsey
© 1934 by Carl Fischer, LLC
CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

*** Please stand as able and led**

               	Ministers..... All Members
Pastor..... David Whitten	Special Music..... Our Handbell Choir
Minister of Music..... Vanessa Morton	Flautist Sarah Hartman
Worship Leader..... Susan Robertson	Guitarist David Whitten
Children's Time Sarah Hartman	Dir. of Media & Tech..... Kevin Beers