



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

First Sunday in Advent

HEAR HOPE

CCLI License # 2839486 *Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin*

November 28, 2021

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *from "Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship"*

We come together in these dark days.

We must look to you now to light our mornings and our evenings.

We come seeking renewed joy.

We must look now to each other for our spirits to be improved.

We come carrying gifts along with the burdens of the year.

We now look within to bring tidings of great joy.

Come, let us worship God!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Andrea, Ryan, and Reneé Tasevski

Where do we hear of hope?

Those who place their hope in the Lord

will renew their strength and mount up with wings like eagles,

Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,

plans for your welfare and not for harm,

to give you a future with hope.

On this first Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle to hear hope.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #772 *Live into Hope, verse 1*

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.

The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

CALL TO CONFESSION

In Jesus Christ, our Lord, the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior, you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared, and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age— worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. We choose to walk in darkness, unwilling to see the evil your light exposes. Cleanse us and free us; break the yoke we choose to carry through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear and trust the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 9:2–7

John 1:1-14

SERMON

The Rev. Leslie Latham

HYMN OF RESPONSE #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of wisdom, may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need. Guide us as we administer the gifts that you have given us for the building of your kingdom. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN: #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 1-4*

CHARGE

Friends, on you the light of God has shone.
Live as the children of light as you proclaim hope
to the world God so loves in Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are waiting come; while we are waiting come.

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

2 With power and glory come; with power and glory come.

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

3 Come Savior quickly come; come, Savior quickly come.

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 1-4

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

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. **(Refrain)**

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. **(Refrain)**

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. **(Refrain)**

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.