

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Lamb Family

Leader: Light can calm us down and ease our fears
All: **God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all.**
Leader: Light helps us see where we're going and reveals dangers ahead
All: **Lord, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path**
One: Light can sparkle and dance to lift our spirits and bring joy
All: **Jesus, you are the true light of the world!**

WORD OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shelley Miller

Leader: Behold, God is our salvation
All: **I will trust and not be afraid!**
Leader: The LORD is my strength and my shield
All: **God has become my salvation!**

*HYMN

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Hymnal #123 (Verses 1, 2, 4)

Verse 1: How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.
Verse 2: It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary, rest.
Verse 4: Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Shelley Miller

Please sign and pass the friendship register located on the center aisle under the pew in front.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Shelley Miller

Leader: God sees all of humanity, the LORD examines both the righteous and the wicked. Since we cannot hide from our Lord, let us turn toward God and confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: **Almighty God, unto whom all thoughts are known and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Shelley Miller

Leader: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all our sin. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*GLORIA PATRI

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **AMEN. AMEN.**

PASSING THE PEACE

Shelley Miller

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

The Babe of Bethlehem

William Walker

*Ye nations all, on you I call: Come hear the declaration,
And don't refuse the glorious news of promise and salvation.
For soon the earth will see the birth of Christ, the great Messiah,
As was foretold by prophets old, Isaiah, Jeremiah.*

*To Abraham the promise came, and to His seed forever,
A Light to shine in Isaac's line, in Scripture we discover.
Hail, Promised One! God's only Son, the glorious Mediator,
God's Living Word will come to earth and dwell with us forever.*

*To Bethlehem this holy Lamb will come with God's salvation.
To us a King will come and bring good news to ev'ry nation.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Make joyful noise and shout the jubilation,
For soon a Star will rise afar and wake the celebration.
Alleluia! Rejoice! Alleluia! Rejoice!*

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Children ages 5 through 8th grade are dismissed at this time for children's worship.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-9

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

SERMON

"Hope Springs"

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymnal #245 (Verses 1, 2, 4)

Verse 1: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Verse 2: O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

Verse 4: O come, desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 FOR OFFERING

Shelley Miller

Leader: Let's thank God with our offerings.

OFFERTORY

O Mighty Cross

Arr. Fettke

*DOXOLOGY

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

*HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Hymnal #377

Verse 1: Alleluia! sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood;
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Verse 2: Alleluia! not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us, Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him, When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise? "I am with you evermore!"

Verse 3: Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, You on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to You from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

**All: Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanctuary Flowers this week are given in honor of Mike Lamb and Joe Schnorr for their renovation of the Davis Center break room (3rd floor) and all the other endless projects they spearhead around the facility.



2025 Stewardship Campaign Update: We have received 45 pledge cards with 13 still withstanding that pledged in 2024. If you have not submitted your pledge card, prayerfully consider how this community has planted seeds of hope, joy and support in your life and how you can give thanks for those seeds in your 2025 pledge of support. Scan the QR Code to pledge online or submit your card to the church office by December 8th.

The Women of Hope will begin a new study for Advent, "The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent." They meet every Tuesday at 10:00 AM in the library. Contact Susan Espiritu if you have any questions.



Advent Candle Volunteers: This Advent season, we invite your family to be a part of our church's tradition of lighting the Advent candles and reading Scripture each Sunday, beginning December 1-22 and on Christmas Eve. It's a meaningful way to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas, reflecting on the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings to our world. Signup by scanning the QR code.

Yuletide Tales and Treats: Join us on December 13 from 6-8 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a festive, fun-filled evening geared toward kids and presented by our Youth. Come dressed in your comfiest pajamas and enjoy a night of games, singing, pizza, and the heartwarming story of Jesus. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season with good times and great company!



Christmas Cookie Swap: Join us for a sweet time of holiday cheer after church on Sunday, December 15! Bring a batch of your favorite homemade Christmas cookies or desserts to share, and leave with a delicious assortment of treats from others. It's a fun way to celebrate the season and enjoy some festive fellowship. Signup by scanning the QR code.

JAHREZEIT

May their memory be for a blessing.

12/7/80 Georgia Harrell, 12/5/84 Donald Hileman, 12/3/88 James Monroe, 12/1/95 Golda Austin, 12/6/00 Ed Scott Sr, 12/1/05 Charlie Cowan

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12/3 Monty Montgomery, 12/5 Beth Hill, 12/6 Sue Wheeler, 12/6 Charlie Wood

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Shelley Miller
Greeters.....Pat Lipps, Sue Wheeler
Ushers.....Barbara Riehl, Nancy & David Noel, Cathy Forester
Music.....FCPC Chancel Choir
Tech Team.....Mac Holland, Thomas Rader, Brett Miller, Debbie Hawkins
Faithful Friends (Children's Worship).....Susan Espiritu, April Lamb
Nursery.....Laurismar Wrinkle, Laura Marquez



Our Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse, *Interim Pastor*
Ashton Hicks, *Office Administrator*
Bob Eubanks, *Choir Director*
George Hill, *Organist*
Nancy Wells, *Pianist*