

12/6/2020



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

401 16th Ave. N.

Bangor, WI 54614

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THE SEASON OF ADVENT

In Advent the Word of God bids us prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. Since the word “advent” means “coming,” it is good for us to be familiar with his coming as a Babe in Bethlehem, his coming into our hearts by faith, and his coming again on the last day!

THE ADVENT WREATH

It is an old custom to light a candle each week leading up to Christmas to heighten our excitement for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. Some assign a different symbol to each candle. Let us do the same this year: November 29: Hope!; December 6: Peace!; December 13: Joy!; December 20: Love! All these Christian virtues live in our hearts by faith in Christ. May these fruits of the spirit guide our thoughts and actions in preparations for Christmas!

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

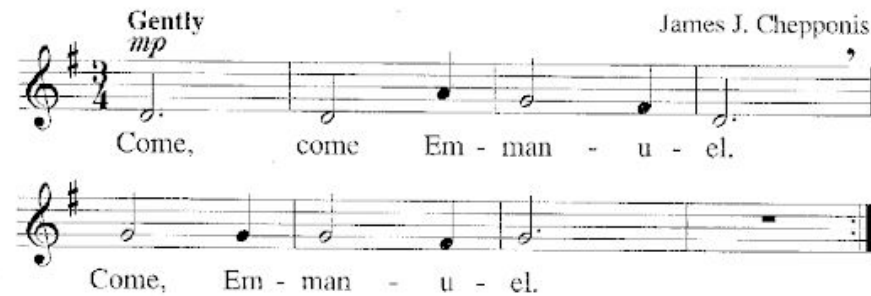
The coming of Christ is sure and so important! Therefore, God sends out forerunners in the footsteps of St. John the Baptist who help us to make proper preparation for his coming. They do that with a message not their own. They do it with the message that God himself has given. Pay close attention to those heralds of the coming Lord because the Day of salvation is here! Let us believe God’s Words and promises and prepare to meet our God!

THE COMMON SERVICE

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

Gently
mp

James J. Chepponis



Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

(The soloist(s) will begin the service by singing the “Advent Gathering Song.” Please repeat it and again after each verse)

1. Our redeemer forever, Oh ...
2. We are clay, you are potter, Oh ...
3. Rouse your power to save us, and ...
4. God will strengthen us always, so ...
5. Stay awake and be watchful, Oh ...
6. The appointed time will ...

STAND

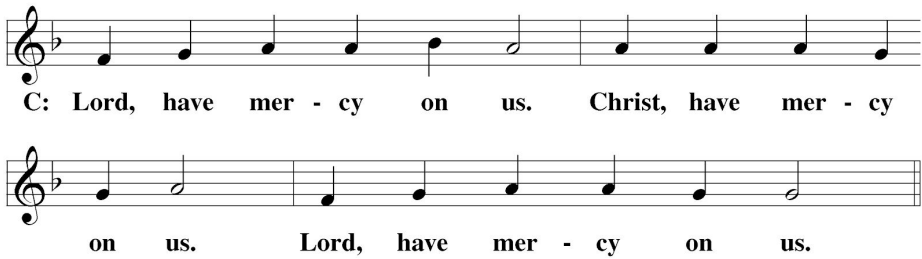
[M] In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

[M] Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[C] **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

[M] God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M] The Lord be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**

[M] Let us pray.
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

THE WORD

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 2 Peter 3:8-14

A little child keeps asking during Advent: *Is Christmas here yet?* With like eagerness we ask the Savior King’s messenger: *How come it takes so long?* The messenger has come in fulfillment of God’s promise to send messengers. The messenger assures us that the promise of his final coming also will be kept, just as surely as the promise of his first coming was kept. Therefore, don’t lose heart in the midst of all the distractions that the world offers to make us forget our chief business of being and getting ready for his coming. Those lost in the distractions will meet him with dismay. Let us keep craning our necks and standing on tiptoe, busy with obedience to his Word and cherishing each proclamation of the message that helps us to prepare.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to do what he promised,

as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, ¹² as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. ¹³ But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

The Gospel Lesson

Since he is coming, as we heard last Sunday, both to destroy and to save, the sending of forerunners to help us prepare is a special mark of the Savior’s grace and kindness. Notice that the forerunner is the lowliest man in the world: He is not even fit to untie the shoes of the one whose coming he proclaims. Since he is so lowly, no one needs to be afraid to listen to him; he will not scare us away. The one whose way he prepares is so eager that we be ready that the messenger and the message alike are lowly. But the message is powerful at the same time. For the message is one of forgiveness, a message that washes away sin and guilt in the Word and in the water, so that those who receive it will be fit for the only one who is great: Our coming Savior King. Give thanks to God that for these thousands of years and to this very day God has sent forerunners to prepare us for his coming at Christmas and on the Last Day, so that his coming for us would be a coming in grace, not a coming in dread and terror. Heed their call to repentance and trust in the Word and work of the coming Savior.

Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **2** This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare the way for you.

³ A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make his paths straight.”

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁶ John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! ⁸ I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

ADVENT

11 Comfort, Comfort All My People



1 “Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,”
2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out
3 John the Bap - tist’s voice is cry - ing In the des -
4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -

so says our God. “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger
ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance
er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

Groan - ing from their sor - rows’ load. Speak to all
He no more will see or heed. They have suf -
For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -
Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -

Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.
ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
ry of the Lord Now o’er earth is spread a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er,
God will change their ach - ing sad - ness
Let the val - leys rise to meet him
And all flesh shall see the to - ken

That their war - fare now is o - ver.”
In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
And the hills bow down to greet him.
That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

The Secret of Living Comfortably

- I. Straigten out your life
- II. Hold on to what lasts
- III. Enjoy God’s salvation

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: “In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.” ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” ⁹ You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

OFFERING

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Dear Father in heaven, we lay our offerings on your altar and ask you to use our gifts to your glory. Forgive our selfishness and accept our gifts as an expression of our gratitude to you for your grace and goodness to us in Jesus Christ.

Holy Redeemer, though you appeared here in lowliness to free us from our sins, and to establish peace between us and our God, we have your promise that you will come again in great power to judge all hearts and fill your church with eternal glory. We await your advent with eagerness and joy. Come quickly to take us to the place in our Father’s house, which you have prepared for all who love you.

Help us to be prepared at all times for your coming. Keep our hearts filled with true contrition and faith; overcome our doubts; cast sin from our lives; keep us from embracing the treasures and sinful pleasures offered by the world. Instead, fill us with humility, that we may never trust our own works to merit heaven, but rely fully on you to save us. To this end cause the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in us with his grace through Word and sacrament.

Lord Jesus, with the bright hope of your coming, cast the dark shadows of sorrows and cares from our hearts. As we await your advent, help us in all our needs. Increase brotherly love and harmony among us. Hear our prayers as we faithfully cry to you night and day and deliver us in all our afflictions. Ask the heavenly Father in our behalf not to count our sins against us but grant us full pardon for your sake. Be with our communicants today so that they receive the sacrament of your body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of their faith in you.

Special prayers and intercessions ...

Hear us also as we join to pray

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

If you are visiting our service, the way we practice the Lord’s Supper might be different from the way you have seen it offered in other churches. The Bible teaches us to distribute this sacrament to those who have been taught and confessed their faith in the “real presence” of this Sacrament (1 Corinthians 11:27). This instruction is given by our pastor so that all our communicants might be of one heart and mind as they join together in this sacred meal. If you would like to learn and confess these truths with us so that you may commune at the altar of the Lord, speak with the Pastor after the service. When you come to the same conviction through a study of God’s Word, we will encourage you to participate with us in this blessed Sacrament.

PREFACE

[M] The Lord be with you.
[C] **And also with you.**

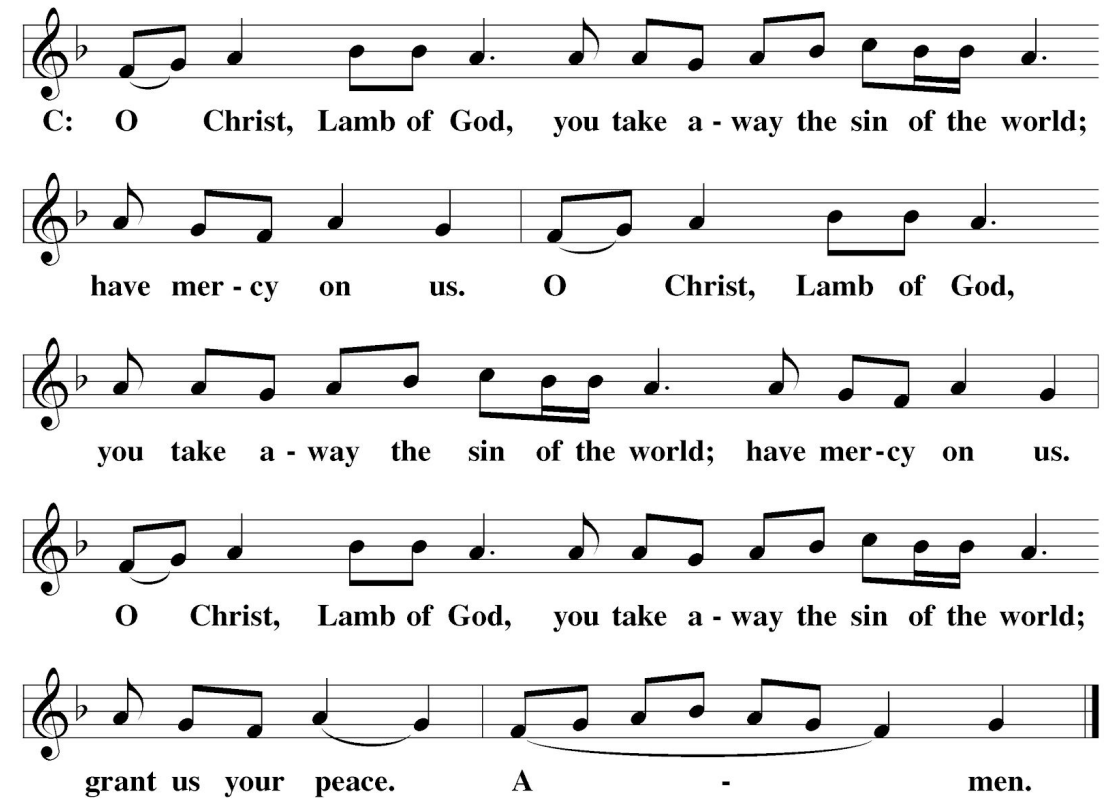
[M] Lift up your hearts.
[C] **We lift them up to the Lord.**

[M] Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
[C] **It is good and right so to do.**

[M] It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[M] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

[M] The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] **Amen.**

ADVENT

16 On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

The Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

- [M] O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

[C] **And his mercy endures forever.**
- [M] We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

The Blessing

- [M] The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

[C] **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: # 702

ADVENT

702

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and
own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -
greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry
comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall
All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:
doubt as - sail you! Ho - san - na to the
now a - dore him!
so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

This hymn reminds us that Advent is a season of preparation, as King Jesus comes to rule in our hearts and lives and leads us to his heavenly kingdom.

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Announcements

This Week:

Sunday: 12/6 **Communion Worship 8 and 10 am**
Sunday School 9:00-9:40 at School
Diorama at Riverside Park

Tuesday: 12/8 Bible Study, 7 pm

Wed: 12/9 Bible Study, 9 am
Confirmation classes, 3:30 pm

Thursday: 12/10 Scrip Orders Due

Sunday: 12/13 **Worship 8 and 10 am**
Bible Study - 9:15-9:40
Sunday School 9:00-9:40 at School

2021 Church envelopes are now available downstairs. Please pick yours up as soon as possible. If you are able, please deliver to those that are unable to attend church services due to COVID concerns.

St. Paul's Ladies Aid has provided two poinsettias for the altar this Christmas season. Thank you. If anyone is considering donating additional flowers this month and are having them delivered by a florist, please have them call 608-451-2110 to have someone to be available to unlock the church.

Pastor Michael Weigand - called to St. Paul's

At the call meeting on Monday, November 23, the congregation extended a Call to Pastor Weigand who serves at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac, WI to be our pastor. If you would like to speak to Pastor Weigand and tell him a little about St. Paul's, you may call him at 920-266-6138 or email him at mweigand@fatihlutheranfdl.org. Pastor Weigand, his wife Cindy, and their children, Lucas and Jenna, need the prayers of the congregation as they struggle to determine how best to continue serving our Lord.

In Memory of Marcella Kastenschmidt, \$65 has been given to the General Fund.

In Memory of Vilas Lash, \$45 has been given to the General Fund.

Church Council Notes: Olympic Builders is continuing to work on some items to conclude the school renovation. New flooring is being installed at the parsonage.

St. Paul's Church Records Update: Please take a moment to complete the form in the narthex to update our church records with current names, address, emails and cell phone numbers. You may also do this electronically at www.stpaulsbangor.com and click on "Sign Up for our Newsletter".

St. Paul's Scrip Program - <https://www.stpaulsbangor.com/scrip-program/>

SCRIP refers to gift certificates or gift cards (great for holiday gift giving). St. Paul's is able to purchase gift cards from hundreds of retailers nationwide at a discount, which you can buy at face value. The difference is our school's profit. By purchasing these gift cards before you shop for your everyday items – like groceries, gas, restaurants – we raise money, without you having to spend a penny extra. Also available on the "Raise Right" mobile app are e-gift cards that can be used instantly via your mobile phone. **Questions:** Contact Janel Lochen at 608-386-4243. **Deadline for December Scrip orders is December 10.**

Upcoming Worship Services:

Christmas Eve services will be at 4:30 and 6:00 m

Christmas Day worship is at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve worship w/communion is at 7:00 pm

Virtual Children's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Due to COVID restrictions and concerns for our children, our Christmas Eve service will look differently than in years past. The day school children will record their Christmas messages to the congregation earlier in the month and these recordings will be shown in the Christmas Eve worship services. The service will close with the dimming of the lights and worshipping by candlelight. Please invite your friends to join us for our Christmas worship services - what better time to share our hope in Christ than at Christmas? The theme for the Christmas Eve worship service will be: "A Changeless Christmas in a Changing World."

Offering Summary (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

Weekly Budget: \$9,948.43

Budget to Date: \$467,576.21

Received 11/29/20: \$9,168.21

Rec'd to Date: \$402,747.75

Attendance - 11/29/2020

8:00 am: 65

10:00 am: 51

Total: 116