

# Worship on the First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

Dr. Clifford Anderson, Guest Preacher  
The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor  
Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

**Prelude** "Spiritual Medley"

**Welcome and Announcements** Dr. Rosanna Anderson

## **Lighting of Candles in the Advent Wreath**

We light this candle as a sign of the light of Christ that shines for all. Advent means arrival. We are preparing for the arrival of the risen Lord Jesus. We are preparing ourselves for the day when **"the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore"** (Isaiah 2:4). **"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them"** (Isaiah 11:6).  
**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for the salvation of the world. Give us wisdom to heed their warnings and grace to forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the return of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn 116** "The God of Abraham Praise"

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, we rejoice that in Christ your kingdom is drawing near! We confess that we have neglected to plead the case of the poor and ignored the needs of the afflicted. By your Spirit, renew our hearts and transform our minds, so that our lives might bear the fruit of compassion. Help us to do good work in the world until your Son, the Prince of Peace, returns in glory. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament** Jeremiah 33:14-16

**New Testament** Luke 21:25-36

**Sermon** "A Righteous Branch" Dr. Clifford Anderson

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed  
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.

**Offertory** "All Earth Is Hopeful" Alberto Taulé

## **Doxology**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

**God of our salvation, we rejoice in your steadfast love. You lead us by your Holy Spirit in paths of righteousness and peace. Draw us closer to you and teach us your way. May our thankfulness overflow in generosity to neighbors and strangers. Extend the reach of this congregation so that our gifts will help others learn of your goodness and grace. We pray in the name of Jesus, our redeemer. Amen.**

**Hymn 618** "Let Us Break Bread Together"

## **Invitation to the Lord's Supper**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*(Prayer continues.)* ... Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*(Prayer continues.)* ... Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer** (*trespasses*)  
**Sharing of the Elements and Prayer After Communion**

**Hymn 184** "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

**Benediction** Dr. Anderson

**Postlude** "Interlude in G Major" L. Mourian

### Church Calendar

Wednesday, Dec. 4 **Bible Study** 9:00–10:00 a.m.  
All are invited to our hybrid study of *Seasons Greetings* by Ruth Boling.

Thursday, Dec. 5 **Tots Time** 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7 **Tree Lighting and Caroling** 5:00 p.m.  
**Board Game Café** 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8 **Christmas Pageant** 10:00 a.m.  
**Greens Workshop and Fellowship** 11:00 a.m.

### **Union Chapel**

**The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor**

Becky Walters, Administrative Assistant

Laura Chapman, Sexton

Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

*"Whoever you are and wherever you are on  
your faith journey, you are welcome here."*



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December 1, 2024

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