

Date: December 3, 2023

1st Advent

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Congregational Meeting

Prayer of Preparation

Author: "E" -Prisoner at Santa Clara, CA Jail

I am waiting for hope to shed some light. I am waiting for God to stop saying not yet. I am waiting for the light to get a little brighter. I am waiting for the new me to be fully out. I am waiting for my wife to say we will fulfill our vows.

I am waiting for my chance to show God I'm ready.

Gathering in the Presence of God

**Please stand as able, in body or in spirit*

Gathering Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

German Carol

Welcome

Choral Prophetic Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Liturgist

Source: New International Version

***Call to Worship** (responsively)

Liturgist

Christ is coming!

We will keep awake!

Christ is coming!

We will be ready!

Christ is coming! He will gather his people from the ends of the earth.

Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

Lighting of the

The Candle of Hope

Judy & Ken McDyer

First Advent Candle

*Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

GTG 82

Confessing Our Separation from God (unison)

Liturgist

We confess that we are not ready. We call on you to rend the heavens and come down, and yet we aren't ready for you to rend our hearts and enter in. When it comes to meeting you face-to-face, we hesitate. We fear what you will find in us and among us. We are uncertain that we really want our lives to be turned upside

down by the good news. We want the hope that comes with knowing you are coming to us, but we're not sure we're ready for the shock of that hope. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our fear that we might joyfully live in the hope that shakes us up and turns us around to follow you. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness** *Jesus, Draw Me Close* Rick Founds
Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus, draw me close;
Closer, Lord, to You.
For I desire to worship and obey.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

We Hear God's Word

Prayer of Illumination Liturgist

Gospel Lesson Mark 13:24-37 Liturgist
Source: New International Version

Anthem Better Days John Rzenick
Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

Reflection Waiting: What Can We Expect?

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles Creed* GTG p. 17
Ecumenical

Joys and Hopes of the People of God

The Act of Gratitude

Offertory: *While We Are Waiting, Come* GTG 92

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison) Liturgist

Great God of wonderful surprises: we enter this season of preparation for your Son's coming, looking not for just a memory of past events, but anticipating a return. The master is near. We strive to get our lives in order and pray that our giving of ourselves to these preparations might reflect the earth-shaking importance of your coming.

Help us to give of ourselves generously, for we do not know the time -- day or the hour. We pray in the name of the One who will come. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn of Invitation *Sanctuary*

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with
Thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

Liturgist

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

It is right to give thanks and praise...Great is the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Lord, we have received nothing that we asked for or wanted. And yet, we received everything that we needed. For this, we pray the way your son, our Lord and Savior taught us to pray... "Our Father..."

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread & the Cup

Communion Prayer

***Doxology: An Expression of Faith to God**

GTG 606

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

We Follow God's Word into the World

***Hymn**

Soon and Very Soon

GTG 384

***Benediction**

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

David Libby

Next Week's Liturgist: Adele Hudson Trout