



Heaven *and* Earth

December 3, 2023 – First Sunday of Advent

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

Emmanuel Comes

Hayes

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Jason Princer

Leader: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again.

Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

People: Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Richard and Virginia Zachary

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.

People: May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

*Call to Worship

Lynda Baran

Leader: From ancient times, no ear has heard, no eye has seen, no one has witnessed any god but you.

People: If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!

Leader: You watch over those who do right, who love justice and follow your way.

People: If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!

Leader: We cannot save ourselves. We need you, Lord God.

Leader: We see the lighted candle of hope. We call on your name, trusting in you.

People: If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!

*Opening Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#211 vs. 1-4

531 Moment

Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter

#221

Offering

Fum, Fum, Fum

Hayes

*Doxology

#94

Morning Prayer with 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 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. Amen.

***Scripture Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

Leader: May God bless the reading, hearing, and understanding of His Word.

People: Amen.

Lynda Baran

Message

Heaven and Earth: Meanwhile...the work of waiting

Jason Princer

***Closing Song**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

#213

***Benediction**

Jason Princer

Postlude