

November 29, 2020

First Sunday in Advent

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Prelude +At Swords: Judy Foreman; Fork Chapel: George Copelan

The Advent Wreath Tom, Doris Roberts / Carolyn Copelan, Ray Pittman

***Hymn Sing:** No. 717: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
No. 196: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Confession and Pardon The Nicene Creed No. 88o

Prayer of Confession

God-with-us, even in Advent,
we confess that you can seem far away.
You are hidden when we need you near.
In our hurt, doubt, and fear,
we do not try to draw closer to you;
instead, we lash out—
against you, our neighbor, even those we love.
Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!
Let your face shine until our tears are dried,
our sins are faded, and our hope is restored.
After all, we belong to you,
and in your hands, we can be made new.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture and Prayers +Louise Hess / Carolyn Copelan

Scripture: Mark 13:24-27 **Pew Bible:** Swords 775; Fork Chapel: NT 59

Prayers of Intercession

God of power and glory,
we remember your awesome deeds across the ages—
the times you saved us and brought us home.
Yet, we also remember times
when we felt alone and afraid.
O God, we are your people,
the work of your hand.
**Look upon us with your shining face,
especially in the time of need.**

We pray for those who look to you for healing and hope . . .
those who are sick or recuperating from illness and injury . . .
those who are lonely and need companionship and care . . .
those for whom the holidays bring sorrow or pain . . .
those whose deep sadness overshadows joy.
Let your face shine upon us, O God.

We pray for people in need of restoration and reconciliation:
for those battling addictions and those in recovery . . .
for people estranged from those they love . . .
for someone lost in grief . . .
for someone far from home.
**Let your face shine upon us, O God,
that we might be saved.**

Renew the spirit of a world grown weary
with waiting and hoping.
Especially we pray for wars to end,
for hunger and poverty to be crowded out by abundance.
And we pray, too, for the church
because we also grow weary in our waiting and watching
for your power and glory to be made known.
Grant us clarity, passion, and true fellowship
so that we are awake to your presence.
**Let your face shine upon the church
and all this weary world, we pray;
in the name of the One born in a manger
and coming again on clouds of glory. Amen.**

The Pastor's Prayer with the Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Peace

Offering with the Doxology

Special Music: The Potter's Hand Zandy Cook, soloist

Sermon: "Live Expectantly! Live Hopefully!" +Dr. Gavalas

***Hymn 127:** Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

***Charge and Blessing** **Dismissal Chorus:** "God be with you..."

Liturgist and Scriptures for next Sunday - December 6

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-22

Swords: Ron Hess ; Fork Chapel: Jackie Copelan

Liturgy of the Advent Wreath, December 6

Swords: David/Shirlee Moore – Fork Chapel: Zandy and Fred Cook

Joint Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion

Swords, Fork Chapel, and New Hope Baptist⁴

Attend any time, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Fork Chapel

Wrap Your Advent Days in Prayer this Week

(Pray and read scriptures each day this week)

Morning Prayer

Thank you, God, for the gift of life today.

I give thanks that your face shines upon me— *Ps. 80:3*
for you are my salvation.

Lead me like a shepherd through this day. *Ps. 80:1*

Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead.

Grant me the spiritual gifts
of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness, *Gal. 5:22-23*
for I want to show your love,
in word and deed, to others.

In Christ's name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Though you have told us to keep awake, O God, *Mark 13:37*
you have also blessed us with rest and sleep.

Grant me such rest in the hours ahead
that I awaken with eager longing for a new day,
ready for you to be revealed
in mundane moments and ordinary encounters.

By your grace prepare me,
whether awake or asleep,
to greet you:
in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn. *Mark 13:35*

All times are in your hands,
and I, too, am in your hands, faithful God. *Isa. 64:8*

In Jesus' name I rest and pray. Amen.