

# *The First Sunday in Advent*

## *November 29, 2020*

*A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.*

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn #89 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1, 3)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law, in cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Celebrant: The night is far spent, and the day is at hand:

**All: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**

Opening Prayer

In this season of longing and anticipation,  
draw us together, Lord, in unity,  
**that our praise and worship might echo in these walls  
and also through our lives.**

In this season of longing and anticipation,  
draw us together, Lord, in mission,  
**that the hope within might be the song we sing  
and the melody of our lives.**

In this season of longing and anticipation,  
draw us together, Lord, in service,  
**that the path we follow might lead us  
from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Candlelighting Song*

Solo: In the season of longing and anticipation, God is at work in the heart of creation  
offering all new life and salvation: a righteous branch springs up!

**All: Open our eyes to sights, signs, and wonder,  
Open our ears to hear your Word,  
Open our hearts to live with each other in hope, Incarnate Lord.**

Children's Talk

### ***The Proclamation of the Word***

Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

*Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.*

Gradual Hymn: *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near*

*Taiže*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark (13:24-37)

#### **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gradual Hymn: *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near*

*Taiže*

Sermon

Rev. Martin Garber-Conrad

The Apostle’s Creed

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### *Intercessions and Thanksgivings*

Dear friends in Christ, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Collect*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,  
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen, forever, Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### *The Blessing*

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Go in peace. **Amen**

Closing Hymn: *Come, O Hope of Your People*

1 Here in this world where darkness surrounds us,  
Show us your face, O promise of dawn!  
We seek a sign that you are among us,  
Show us your face, O Lord Jesus, come!

**Refrain:** Come, O hope of your people,  
Come among us and stay!  
Lead us in mercy up from the shadows,  
Shine in our darkness, be here today!

2 Where is the peace you promised the widow?  
Show us your face, O promise of dawn!  
Where is the home you promised the orphan?  
Show us your face, O Lord Jesus, come! **Refrain**

3 Where the road you promise the exile?  
Show us your face, O promise of dawn!  
Where is the good news promised to the lowly?  
Show us your face, O Lord Jesus, come! **Refrain**

4 Where is the heart whose “yes” is salvation?  
Show us your face, O promise of dawn!  
Where is the child whose life is our future?  
Show us your face, O Lord Jesus, come! **Refrain**

Postlude

*If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now.*

*This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.*

*And from ALTERNATIVE COLLECTS FOR YEARS A, B & C OF THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY AND SEASONAL PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS AND AFTER COMMUNION Prepared by the Liturgy Task Force, Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee*

*Of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>*

*Blessing for face masks from the American International Church, London, UK and found online at <https://youtu.be/-9qjnk1wVpE>*

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