

# First Sunday of Advent ... Hope

December 2, 2018

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER .....Pastor and Congregation

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH.....Chris, Barbie, Holland Blake

CHORAL RESPONSE... "Light the Light, the Fire of Life" ... vs. 1 ..... 82

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON... Selections from *Habakkuk* ..... Molly Abbott and Reggie Jackson

## THE PROPHET'S COMPLAINT

**LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? <sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. <sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgment comes forth perverted. <sup>5</sup>Look at the nations, and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told. <sup>6</sup>For I am rousing the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous nation, who march through the breadth of the earth to seize dwellings not their own. <sup>7</sup>Dread and fearsome are they; their justice and dignity proceed from themselves.**

## GOD'S REPLY TO THE PROPHET'S COMPLAINT

**2 I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. <sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. <sup>3</sup>For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. <sup>4</sup>Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.**

**God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. <sup>4</sup>The brightness was like the sun; rays came forth from his hand, where his power lay hidden. <sup>5</sup>Before him went pestilence, and plague followed close behind. <sup>6</sup>He stopped and shook the earth; he looked and made the nations tremble. The eternal mountains were shattered; along his ancient pathways the everlasting hills sank low.**

## TRUST AND JOY IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE

**<sup>17</sup>Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, <sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation.**

**<sup>19</sup>GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.**

HYMN ... "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ..... 79

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ..... Brandi Powers

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful God, we open our hearts to you, trusting that your love and goodness is stronger than all of our shortcomings. We have been afraid to trust you, and we have forgotten the assurance of your eternal presence. We have sacrificed our convictions, complained when inconvenienced, and looked out for ourselves above all else. We have considered giving up when the task before us seems too great. Forgive us for all these things, and help us to be guided by your Spirit and to be filled with hope in the One who gives us new life. Amen.**

Hear the Good News, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.**

## MORNING PRAYER

OFFERTORY HYMN ... "His Name Is Called Emmanuel" ..... 119

OFFERTORY PRAYER ..... Usher

## OFFERTORY

ANTHEM ... "Somebody Build a Manger" ..... Choir

## SERMON

CLOSING HYMN ... "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ..... 83

## BENEDICTION

## SHARING LOVE AND PEACE

## POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

### TODAY

4:00 p.m. .... Rehearsal for Christmas Program

6:00 p.m. .... Choir Practice

### WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. .... Supper ... Team 2

6:30 p.m. .... Bible Study, Youth and Children

### THURSDAY

11:00 a.m. .... Community Meal

### NEXT SUNDAY

5:00 p.m. .... CARE TEAMS ... RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

## USHERS

TODAY ..... Eugene Crisco's Team

NEXT SUNDAY ..... Dwight Saunders' Team

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

TODAY ..... Candy and Elizabeth Loflin and Mary Beth McCaskill

NEXT SUNDAY ..... Tammy Dunn and Robledos

