

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP
Seasons of Advent and Christmas December 2023

“Advent carries two simultaneous visions of our expectations: we wait yet again the birth of the babe in the manger, and we also await Christ’s coming again to fulfill all things. We often prepare for Advent by ‘getting ready’ . . . Yet preparing for the coming of Christ is not a matter of having everything under control. Christ’s arrival disrupts – disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in a society in which we are deeply imbedded. A prayer for Christ to come to us is a prayer for a holy disruption of our lives that we cannot control and that we might struggle to accept.” Sundays and Seasons, Year A 2023

Sunday, December 3 – Advent 1

“Hanging of the Greens” following Worship

❖ Color: Blue ❖ Holy Communion – Chancel Rail ❖ Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9 *Prayer that God would come with power and compassion*

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end*

Mark 13:24-37 *The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

Sunday, December 10 – Advent 2

Celebration Choir “Cantata”

❖ Color: Blue ❖ No Communion ❖ Readings:

Isaiah 40:1-11 *Good news of God’s coming to a people in exile*

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

2 Peter 3:8-15a *Waiting for and hastening the day of God*

Mark 1:1-8 *John appears from the wilderness*

Sunday, December 17 – Advent 3

Sunday School Children’s “Christmas Program”

❖ Color: Blue ❖ Holy Communion – Continuous Serving ❖ Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden*

Psalm 126 *The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 *Kept in faith until the coming of Christ*

John 1:6-8, 19-28 *A witness to the light*

Sunday, December 24 – Advent 4

9:30am

❖ Color: Blue ❖ Holy Communion ❖ Readings:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 *The LORD’s promise to David*

Luke 1:46b-55 *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)*

Romans 16:25-27 *The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ*

Luke 1:26-38 *The angel appears to Mary*

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

2pm & 4:30pm

❖ Color: White ❖ Holy Communion – Continuous Serving ❖ Readings:

Isaiah 9:2-7 *Light shines: a child is born for us*

Psalm 96 *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)*

Titus 2:11-14 *The grace of God has appeared*

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] *God with us*