Worship for The Lord's Day

Covenant Presbyterian Church

The First Sunday of Advent | November 29, 2026 | 10:45 AM

The season of ***Advent*** (Latin for "coming") begins the Church year. It spans the 4 Sundays preceding Christmas and traces how God fulfilled His prophetic promises through Jesus' birth. It also anticipates when Christ will come again in glory. An Advent wreath visualizes our journey to Christmas. A new candle is lit on the wreath each week; this illustrates the coming light of Christ into the world. Their purple color represents His royalty. The evergreen wreath symbolizes God's unending, eternal love.

Gathering as God's People

Prelude — *Morning Song (The King Shall Come)*
arranged by Joseph M. Martin
Katie Stuckey, piano

The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.

Choral Introit — *Call to Advent*
arranged by J. Jerome Williams

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ, our God, to earth descended, our full homage to demand.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Advent by J Jerome Williams, Text: © 1980 Hope Publishing Company
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The Life of the Church

Welcome and Announcements — Pastor Steve Mirich

Lighting the Advent Candle: Hope — Gary and Martha Scupham

Adoration of God

† Call to Worship — Psalm 33 (selected verses)

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the Word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the Earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our Shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy Name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.

The congregation responds reading the **bold** print.

† Carol of Praise No. 196 — *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Invocation — Tony Bloemsma, Elder

***Affirmation of Our Faith** — The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?
A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in Heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

† Carol of Hope No. 311 — *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Confession of Sin and Means of Grace

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Reflection — *Come to My Heart*
arranged by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee."
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When Thou comest and callest for me.

Come to my heart, there is room for Thee.

Come to My Heart arr. Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi
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† The Reading of God's Word — Luke 13: 6–9

The Message from God's Word — "Hopeless?"
Pastor Steve Mirich

† Indicates the congregation stands as able.

† Hymn of Response — *Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death*

Verse 1
What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand? What comes apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ in which we stand.

Chorus
O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal,
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess,
Christ our hope in life and death

Verse 2
What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh? Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Chorus

Verse 3
Unto the grave what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will Heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore.

Chorus (repeat twice)

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† Offertory Prayer

Offertory — *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
arranged by Julie Lind
Zoe Thompson, piano

Response and Blessing

† Sending Carol No. 207 — *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* (stanza 3)

† Benediction — Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

† Advent Doxology — *VENI, EMMANUEL*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmauel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

Postlude — *Wake, Awake! For Night Is Flying!*
arranged by Paul Manz
Brett Levi, organ

An elder will be available for prayer at the front following worship.