

**December 3, 2023**  
First Sunday of Advent

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Lighting the Advent Candle** (focus on Isaiah 64:1-9)

Leader: O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

*(Light the first candle)*

**People: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.**

Leader: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

**People: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and to reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #116:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-5)

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25 Terry Henderson

**Anthem:**

**Time With Young Disciples**

**\*Unison Prayer**

**God without beginning and without end, your promise comes to us, bringing hope. May we in turn come to your mountain, bending our swords and spears, seeking instruction, and walking in your light in the name of Jesus the Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

**Sermon:** "Mary Had a Baby"

**Special Music:** "Mary Had a Baby"

**The Community at Prayer** (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

## Prayer Response

### Invitation to the Offering

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)*

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Leader: For the wondrous ways this offering will breathe hope into community  
**All: We dedicate these gifts.**  
Leader: For the ways these tithes and offerings will help us live out God's mission  
**All: We dedicate these gifts.**  
**Let these gifts strengthen our call to carry out God's justice and mercy.**

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jesus said: I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**In company of all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made....Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Elements

**\*Thanksgiving Prayer**

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #108: "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old"**

\*Commissioning and Blessing

\*Choral Response

\*Postlude