

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candle

Barbara & Rick Ransom

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, ... “ Isaiah 9:9

And the Light
Was not, could not, will not be dimmed

On this first Sunday of Advent, we remember that then, as now, our public life and our faith intertwine. The names of Caesar Augustus, Herod, Pilate, local authorities have different names now. The struggle of humankind to find peace, justice, joy, hope, love continues.

This morning, we light the first candle, the candle of hope and we remember the words we heard from the prophecy of Isaiah.

***Hymn #116:** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***Passing the Peace**

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jan Derry

Anthem: Eternal Rose, by D. Lantz III & G. Grier

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: “Holding the Flashlight”

***Hymn #110:** “Now Bless the God of Israel”

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.

Our Father
Who art in heaven
Hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
And the glory, forever. Amen.

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 at <https://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/>)

***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**

**Joyous God, Originator of all Gifts,
This day and always, we celebrate the gifts of our hands and hearts. We share our talents and time, knowing our energy builds the world with love. We share our treasures, knowing that all gifts we entrust to your Church will build your Realm. With joy, we devote our first fruits to loving you and your children. Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the 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 our voices 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!

Prayer of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Elements

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus 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; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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

***Commissioning and Blessing**

***Choral Response**

***Postlude**