

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2006

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING

The Prelude *Largo from "Winter"* Vivaldi/Thompson
Jubilate Ringers

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit *"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"* Melchior Teschner

The Call To Worship The Lighting of the *Advent* Candle

The Prayer of Adoration

*The Hymn 9 *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

*The Prayer of Confession

God of the Future, You are coming in power to bring all nations under Your rule. We confess that we have not expected Your kingdom. For we live casual lives, ignoring Your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse Your justice and peace. In Your mercy, forgive us. . . . (time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

*The Assurance of Pardon

God remembers us, not for the sins of youth nor since,
but as we are in Christ.

**Because of Jesus Christ, God remembers us for good.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

*The Gloria Patri p. 579 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.
Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see Your face, O God. Restore whatever is lacking in our faith. Speak to us through Your Word that we may be strengthened in holiness. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Jeremiah 33:14-16* p. 903 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 25:1-10* p. 618 in the pew Bible

The Anthem *"Comfort, Comfort"* John Ferguson, arr.

The *Epistle* Lesson: *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13* p. 249 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 435 *"We All Are One in Mission"*

The Gospel Lesson: *Luke 21:25-36*

p. 104 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

“Heads Up!”
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*The *Nicene Creed* (Ecumenical Version) p. 15 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession, and Dedication

The Service of Offering
The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” arr. Edwin McLean

*The Hymn of Preparation 5 “*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise. . . .

. . . who forever sing to the glory of Your name,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,
Heaven and Earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. . . .

. . . Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. . . .

The Lord’s Prayer
The Communion

p. 16 in the Hymnal

(You are invited to partake of the elements
as you receive them with reverent meditation.)

The Prayer After Communion

Faithful God, Your promises stand unshaken through all generations. We bless You for this sacred meal shared with Your Son, the Light of the world. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Savior, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

GO IN GOD’S NAME.

*The Hymn 12 “*People, Look East*”
(verses 1-4 only)

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude “*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*” Ben Logan