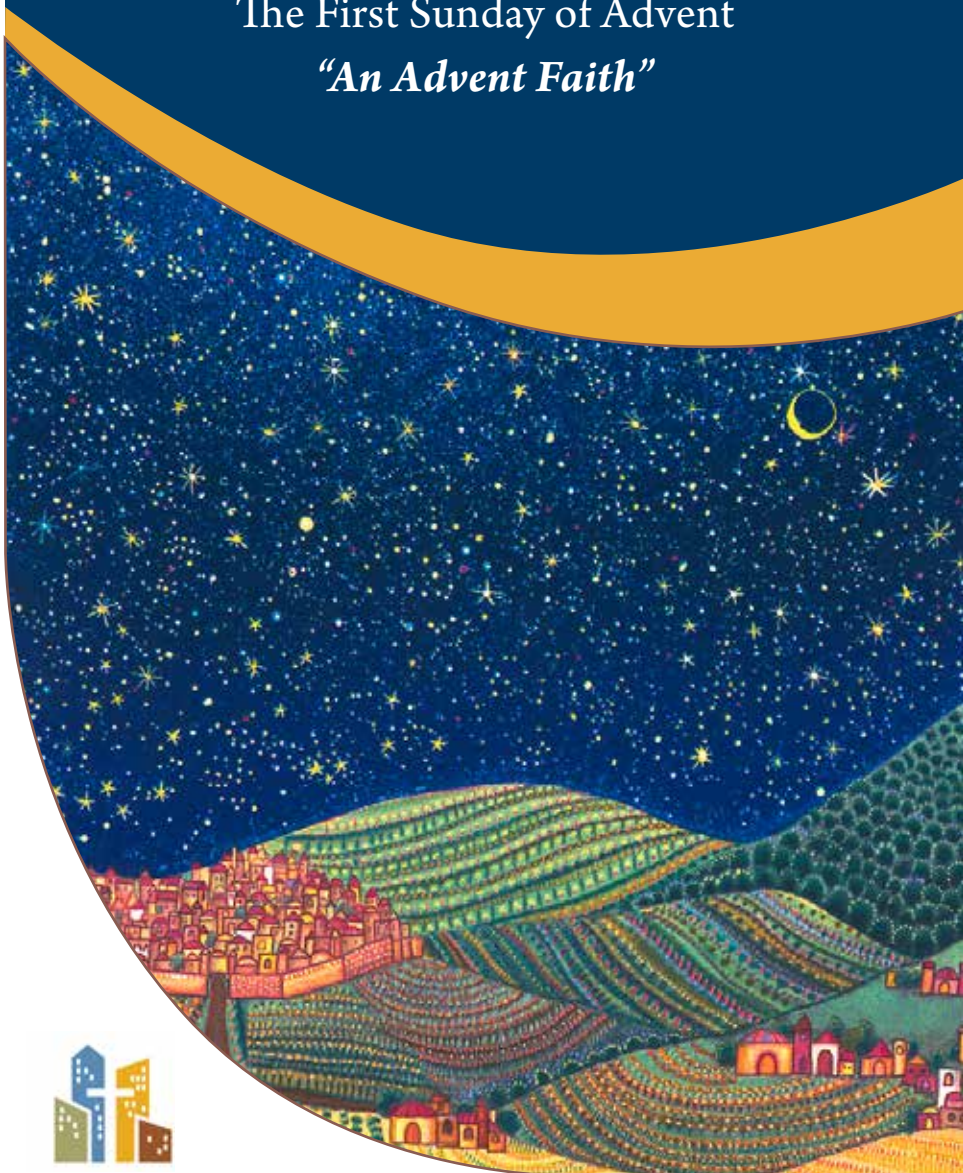


First (Park) Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

November 28, 2021

The First Sunday of Advent

“An Advent Faith”



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Gathering and Centering - 10:15am

Announcements - 10:25am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

+ Stand as you are able

Gathering Music Phyllis Ann Miner, piano

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle

Prelude Steven B. Smith, organ
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Charles Callahan

+ Call to Worship Reading Responsively

One: The days are surely coming when the promises will be fulfilled, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.

All: Watch out! Be on your guard! At any moment, all things will change.

One: Tables will overturn. The world will turn upside down.

All: The powerful will become powerless, and the weak will be made strong. The hungry will be filled with good things and the rich sent away empty.

One: In this season of Advent, we are ready for God's work to transform the world, to bring heaven to earth.

All: A new, righteous branch is planted, and we are rooted, ready to grow into God's new creation. With hope in our hearts this Advent, let us worship God.

+ Processional Hymn - No. 83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Tune: STUTTGART
(see page 8)

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope

Prayer

Reading in Unison

Make haste, O God, and transform our world! Help us to be ready, for Christ is entering our world and our lives in a new way. Prepare us for our world to be turned upside down this Advent season. Amen.

Litany

Reading Responsively

One: This year has been devastating...

All: Pandemic, wildfires, shootings, turmoil.

One: It would be so easy to give in to apathy, to let our hearts grow dark with despair.

All: But there is a light shining in the darkness.

The Candle of Hope is Lit

Darin, Michelle, and Jonathan Hodde

Natalie Burke, soloist

Come and Light This Candle

Text and Music by Joseph Martin

One: A single candle, a small voice, a still reminder...

All: Hope.

One: Hope in the Word proclaimed by the prophets.

All: Hope.

One: Hope in the promise of Emmanuel

All: Hope.

One: Hope in the birth of our Savior

All: Hope.

Response

Hymn No. 88 (Vs. 1)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

**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.**

The Chimes

The Chimes give us an opportunity to center ourselves as we stand in reverent silence and prepare to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to the message God may have for us this day.

Children's Blessing

Reading Responsively

Leader: People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

Congregation: May the Lord be with you and may the Word of the Lord grow in your hearts.

All: Thanks be to God!

Solo

Brandon Harris, baritone

Phyllis Ann Miner, piano

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

(Canticle of the Turning)

Setting by Mark Hayes

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain:

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears,
For the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn.*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;*

*There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:*

*God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)*

Paraphrase of Luke 1:46-58 (Magnificat)

Words: Rory Cooney (1990)

The Scripture Lesson

Carrie Kolehuse, liturgist
Mark 13:24-37

One: The Word of God for the People of God...

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Response

Hymn No. 92 (Vs. 1)

While We Are Waiting, Come

Tune: WAITING

1 While we are wait - ing, come;

while we are wait - ing, come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

(congregation reading in unison)

...Our Father/Mother/God, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

Choral Response

The Chancel Choir

Alleluia for Advent

Patrick Coyle

Allelu! Alleluia! Prepare for the King.

Allelu! Alleluia! Let voices now ring.

Hear the songs we are singing with love and good cheer.

He shall come that holy night.

Prepare for the Lord of Light!

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen

An Advent Faith: Don't Bypass the Cocoon

Organ Interlude

Steven B. Smith, organ

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Paul Manz

Anthem

The Chancel Choir

Prepare!

Music and Text by Joseph M. Martin

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Make straight in the desert a highway for our King

Come greet the Messiah, raise your voice and sing.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Let every hosanna be lifted to the sky,

Sing alleluia, redemption draweth nigh.

*Prepare ye the way of the Lord!
Ye sleepers awake, for this is the day.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!*

+ Closing Hymn- No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Tune: MENDELSSOHN
(see pages 8 and 9)

+ Our Common Commission

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle

Let us now go forth into the world in peace; being of good courage; holding fast to that which is good; rendering to no one evil for evil; strengthening the faint hearted; supporting the weak; helping the afflicted; honoring all people; loving and serving the Lord and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*The service of worship concludes with Our Common Commission.
If you are leaving the Sanctuary during the Postlude,
please be respectful of the musician and those who are listening.*

Recessional

Steven B. Smith, organ
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Paul Lehenbauer

Thank you for joining us this morning!

We'd like to know that you were here, answer any questions you have, and support you in prayer. Please fill out the information card in your bulletin and leave it in the offering plate as you leave the Sanctuary.

Our fellowship continues downstairs. Please join us for a cup of coffee.

Our virtual services are all available to watch on our website:
www.parkchurchgr.org

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744


MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTTGART

8.7.8.7

(alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
7.7.7.7.D with refrain

Joys and Concerns

Please keep Doris and Bruce Robey in your prayers. Doris' brother Cliff Hulst passed away on November 21, 2021. Cards can be sent to 2639 Golfbury Dr SW, Wyoming, MI 49519.

Park Church member Louise Denney passed away on November 12, 2021 at the age of 94. Private services have taken place.

Jean Jennings is hospitalized at Spectrum-Butterworth. Cards and best wishes should be sent to her home: 533 Worchester NE, Grand Rapids MI 49503.

We share our sympathy with the Sue DeBruyn and her family. Sue's husband Mick DeBruyn passed away on November 15, 2021. A celebration of Mick's life will be held at a later date. You can send your support and encouragement to 6690 Amy School Road, Howard City, MI 49329

Please remember those serving in the military including: Joe Birkhold, Jesse Campbell, Kit Grant, Kyle Kutsche, Andy MacGregor, Stefan Pawelka, and Matthew Quick.

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers at the Pulpit are given in honor of Emmett Robert Butler on his 8th birthday by his grandparents Jim and Marty Butler.

The flowers at the Lectern are given in memory of Carroll and Frances Streeter by Bill and Marcia Streeter

The Altar enhancements celebrating the season of Christmas are courtesy of the Park Church Women

If you would like to mark an occasion by dedicating Altar flowers, please contact Marcia Streeter (mabiti1@gmail.com).

Serving With You Today

Ushers: Chuck Dietiker, Richard Rowe

Greeters: Mike and Gyl Hondorp

Parking Lot Greeter: Chris Camfferman

Sound: Sam Johnson

Flower Care: Kathy Miller

Nursery: Angel Walker, Marcia Bishop

Little Lambs: Hannah Petty, Sarah Kugler

Pre-K and K: Lori Riegling, Anna Hickman

Grade 1: Laura Tay

Grades 2 and 3: Laura Barnum, Amy Rains

Grades 4 and 5: Megan Cottrell, Jason King

Middle School: Andrew DeBoer, Kate Meengs

High School: Gregg Hampshire

Children's Worship Center and Sunday School

Children's Worship Center: Families with infants and toddlers can proceed directly to the nursery and "Little Lambs" classroom on the first floor. If you aren't sure which room is right for your child, our staff and volunteers can help you. Students in Pre-K - 5th grade sit with their families in the worship service. After the Children's Blessing, they go with Miss Gloria to the Worship Center classes on the lower level.

Middle School: Students in grades 6-8 meet every week. They will be dismissed from the worship service at the appropriate time and meet in the third floor youth room for the remainder of the service.

High School: Students in grades 9-12 will meet in the Martenson Parlor on the first floor during the worship service on December 5.



An Open and Affirming Congregation

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

As Jesus demonstrated by his life and teachings, we fully value and welcome all people into the life of Park Church, regardless of beliefs or doubts, age, color, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical, mental, or emotional ability, or economic status. In fact, we value and celebrate the rich diversity of all God's creation.

Our Vision

To build a community of relentless compassion
and courageous hope where all are seen and known, and
the God of extravagant love is revealed.

10 E Park Pl NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-3203 / office@parkchurchgr.org / www.parkchurchgr.org
www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 4:00

The wifi password is *parkchurchguest*.