



First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2019 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC

Welcome to St. John's!

For more information about today's worship, please refer to the pew card found in the hymnal. You'll notice that our worship follows a simple pattern that has guided the church's worship since the first century — Gather, Word, Meal, Sending — a pattern designed to nourish and strengthen us for the week ahead. Welcome to worship!



The Advent Wreath. One of the most recognizable customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life. Its circular shape, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's unending love for us. The wreath itself is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life, even during the dormant time of winter. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light, despite the wintry darkness that surrounds us.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God.

Prelude

Meditation for Advent
Kevin Agner, Cello

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Advent season begins in darkness as we await the coming of Christ. In the midst of darkness we are reminded of a single light that provides peace and hope. Through the four weeks of Advent, the light marks our time and becomes a growing reminder that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light no darkness can overcome (John 1:5).

Please remain seated.

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.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Isaiah 9:2

Solo 1. O Splen - dor of the Fa - ther's light that makes our
Congregation 2. The Fa - ther sends his Son, our Lord, too be his

day - light lu - cid, bright; O Light of light and sun of day, now shine on
bright and shin - ing Word; Come, Lord, ride out your gleam - ing course and be our

us your bright - est ray. A - men.
dawn, our light's true source.

After 2nd verse

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright is one of the Christian church's earliest hymns, written in the 4th century by Ambrose of Milan. © 2000 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI License #942521

Prayer for the Season of Advent

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, king of the universe. You call all people to walk in your light and to seek your way of justice and peace; for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Rouse us from sleep, bless us with light, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes.
Amen.

Please stand

Hymn 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 1-4

VENI, EMMANUEL

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Welcome



Word

We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The coming messenger

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² 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.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand

Children's Worship. *During the following response, children are invited to Children's Worship, returning after the sermon.*

Response Hymn 292

Love Has Come

UN FLAMBEAU

**Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

The day and the hour

³⁶But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

Please stand

Hymn 242

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession *Each petition ends: "Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**"*

Sharing the Peace of Christ *The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you*

Please be seated



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings, and Preparation of the Lord's Table.

Offertory Anthem

Bring Us Hope

Ruth Elaine Schram

Bring us hope, bring us love; bring us peace and joy from above.
Bring us light, take our darkness away.
Bring us light, turn our night into day.
Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above.
Bring us hope.

Hope to replace our hopelessness, love to refill our emptiness,
Peace in the midst of our distress;
Oh, how we need your joy!

Offertory Hymn *As the gifts are presented the congregation stands and sings the Doxology:*

**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. Amen.**

Let us pray. Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:

**O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Eucharistic Prayer, *followed by the Lord's Prayer, p. 154, front of red ELW*

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion, *see page 2 of bulletin for instructions.*

Hymn *Lamb of God, p. 154, front of red ELW*

Communion Hymns	472	<i>Eat This Bread</i>
	466	<i>In the Singing</i>
	247	<i>Come Now, O Prince of Peace</i>



Sending

Forgiven and nourished, we are sent into the world to share God's love.

Please stand

Blessing and Prayer

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.
Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your
people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Benediction

Hymn 239

Hark, the Glad Sound!

CHESTERFIELD

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*