

Worship for November 28

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Gene, Margaret & Paul Parker

The world says, "All is lost."
God says, "all is loved."
The darkness says, "The light is dying."
The light says, "Close your eyes and cover your ears."
Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

We hope for a world where all are fed.
We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.
We hope for a world with wide open doors.
We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.
We hope for a world where all people feel at home – in their communities and in the church.
So today we light our first Advent candle, the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.
May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.
We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. O Come Emmanuel!

HYMN 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verse 1

OPENING MUSIC - Michael Parker, piano

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, have mercy upon us, for we are not ready for your coming. We have looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We have ceased to listen to your truth. Our cynicism and selfishness win the day more often than we care to admit. Forgive us, O God and create within us a sense of anticipation for your coming. Keep us alert to the needs of our neighbors and revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue so that we might love you and serve others with renewed vigor. (silent prayers)

(adapted from Call to Worship Vol. 55.1)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

HYMN 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:25-36

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

SERMON

Homesick

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

**ANTHEM - *My Spirit Waits for Emmanuel*, from "One Silent Night", Pepper Choplin
Starmount Chancel Choir**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.
Gifts may also be made online at starmountpres.org.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Isaiah 11:1-6

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 92 – *While We Are Waiting, Come*

BENEDICTION