

Sunday, eleven o'clock      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent      November 28, 2010

**GREETING**

This is the day the Lord has made!

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Mission & Outreach Committee

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

**SOUNDING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Jimmy & Marsha Mucha

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (Hymn # 9, verse 1)

**\*Opening Prayer**

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,  
we open all the dark places in our lives  
and memories to the healing light of Christ.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

**\*HYMN # 2**

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

from Isaiah 30

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

based on Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

People: **O God, we live as if the light  
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

Leader: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: **We confess that we ignore the Christ  
you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

Leader: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

People: **We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season  
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

Leader: And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

People: **Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.  
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.  
It's time that we prepare for your coming.  
Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.  
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.  
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

based on Isaiah 40:1-2

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Your sins are pardoned.  
The penalty is paid.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 23 (refrain)**

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** pg. 631

Isaiah 2:1-5

**ANTHEM**

*"People, Look East"*

Eugene Butler

**CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**

**\*\*Gateway to Worship**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 11**

*"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"*

**GOSPEL READING** pg. 27

Matthew 24:36-44

**SERMON**

Accept No Substitutes

Rev. Sharon Amstutz

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology # 22 (verse 4)**

*"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**GOING OUT TO SERVE**

**\*HYMN OF CONSECRATION # 12**

*"People, Look East"*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—  
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

People: **We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,  
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

Leader: The good news of Advent is this:  
Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

People: **We will welcome Christ into our hearts.  
We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.  
We will go forth from this place in hope.**

\*SENDING RESPONSE # 29 (refrain)

*“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

\*POSTLUDE

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\*For those who are able, please stand.

\*\***Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Children’s Moments.

*Please join us in the library immediately following worship  
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

**COMMUNION**

The **Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper** will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

**THE NEWSLETTER**

The **November Courier** can be found on the table in the narthex. **Help us save postage!** Be sure to pick up your copy!

**PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE UPDATE**

We still need 7 gifts to be given to our Angel Tree children with an incarcerated parent. The Angel Tree will be set up in the Narthex after worship today, and you can sign up for one then. Thanks.

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR 2010 - WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT ANYWAY?**

For many of us, Christmas has become commercialized to the point that we feel pressure to buy and consume. But what do we buy a friend or loved one who has few needs or wants? This year, Covenant sponsored its 17<sup>th</sup> **Alternative Christmas Gift Fair**. The **2010 Alternative Christmas Giving Guide**, on the table in the Narthex, gives you a chance to think about worthy organizations and how we as a Christian community can become partners in the work of the church. The five mission organizations featured this year are: *Rise Up for Kids*, *CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)*, *The River*, *Interfaith Hospitality Network* and *Living Waters for the World*. If you missed this event, you can still participate throughout Advent by filling out the enclosed green Giving Form and dropping it in the offering plate along with your check (made out to “Covenant”).

**POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE : DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas season, please use the enclosed order form. Cost is \$10 each.

**2011 PLEDGES :**

We are working with your pledges for 2011 to develop the budget. It is very important that we receive your information soon to be able to complete the process. Our goal is to be finished by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please remember that as year end approaches, your tithes and offerings will be credited to your 2010 Statement of Giving if made before December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions, please contact Shirley Hines or Hal Hunter. Thank you, The Stewardship Committee