**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 28, 2021**



*“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Luke 21:33)*

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**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 28, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: The Lord reigns, let the people rejoice

**P: God is exalted above the earth**

L: God, our God, we earnestly seek you

**P: My soul thirsts for you**

L: We’ve seen your mighty works

**P: I behold your power and glory**

L: We will give thanks with our whole heart

**P: I will praise the name of the Lord forever**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Come, O Come Emmanuel” #163 (vv.1-4)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**

**And ransom captive Israel**

**That mourns in lowly exile here**

**Until the Son of God appear**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel**

**Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**O come, Thou Dayspring come and cheer**

**Our spirits by Thine advent here**

**Disperse the gloomy clouds of night**

**And death’s dark shadows put to flight**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel**

**Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high**

**And order all thing far and nigh**

**To us the path of knowledge show**

**And cause us in her ways to go**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel**

**Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind**

**All peoples in one heart and mind**

**Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease**

**Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel**

**Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**Advent Reading**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forevermore, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

The 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. In 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. In 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.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of God will abide forever. Be on guard, and trust in God’s faithfulness. Be alert, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P: Great and gracious God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. We pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service and by walking for you in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 25

**P: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Lo, he Comes with Clouds Descending” #278 (vv.1,3-4)

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending**

**Once for favored sinners slain**

**Thousand, thousand saints attending**

**Swell the triumph of his train**

**Halleluia! Halleluia!**

**God appears on earth to reign**

**Now the Savior, long expected**

**See in solemn pomp appear**

**All his saints, by man rejected**

**Now shall meet him in the air**

**Halleluia! Halleluia!**

**See the day of God appear**

**Yes, amen! let all adore thee**

**High on thine eternal throne**

**Savior, take the pow'r and glory**

**claim the kingdom for thine own**

**O come quickly, O come quickly**

**Everlasting God, come down**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

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

“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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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:** “Season For Hope”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “We Will Glorify” #156 (vv.1-4)

**We will glorify the King of kings**

**We will glorify the lamb**

**We will glorify the Lord of lords**

**Who is the great I Am**

**Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty**

**We will bow before His throne**

**We will worship Him in righteousness**

**We will worship Him alone**

**He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth**

**He is Lord of all who live**

**He is Lord above the universe**

**All praise to Him we give**

**Hallelujah to the King of kings**

**Hallelujah to the Lamb**

**Hallelujah to the Lord of lords**

**Who is the great I Am**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Almighty God, who came to us long ago in the birth of Jesus, came as a source of hope to this world. A hope in that which we still haven’t seen. Offer your lives as a home for grace and strength, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus” #157 (vv.1-2)

**Come, thou long expected Jesus**

**Born to set thy people free**

**From our fears and sins release us**

**Let us find our rest in thee**

**Israel's strength and consolation**

**Hope of all the earth thou art**

**Dear desire of every nation**

**Joy of every longing heart**

**Born thy people to deliver**

**Born a child and yet a King**

**Born to reign in us forever**

**Now thy gracious kingdom bring**

**By thine own eternal spirit**

**Rule in all our hearts alone**

**By thine all sufficient merit**

**Raise us to thy glorious throne**

**\*Benediction**

L: You have been reminded that Jesus Christ is your Lord and that you are God’s servant. You are loved; you are forgiven; you are empowered; and now you are sent to live as God’s faithful one. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.