



Sunday, December 1, 2024
First Sunday in Advent

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)

- Highland, A Place to be Seen, Known, and Loved -

Greeters: Kathy & Dan Missildine, Judy Berg, Dolores Murray, Shelby & Jack Snyder, Dotty Leaman

Ushers: Johnny Wood, Bev Campbell, Howard McIntyre, John Wolf, Linda Keener, Joan Alexander, Phyllis Thompson

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:
Wendell Stockdale, in memory of Jane Stockdale

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes & Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Matt Drumheller

*Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.
At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.*

Giving Tree Blessing

Rev. Matt Drumheller

*Advent Wreath Lighting

Rev. Matt Drumheller

Leader: The world says, "All is lost."

God says, "All are loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying."

The light says, "The fire is catching."

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

Leader: As we light our first Advent candle,

People: We pray for the holy hope of God.

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

People: Come now, O Wonderful Counselor.

*Opening Hymn #2

"Come Thou long Expected Jesus"

Children's Dismissal to Sunday School

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

*At this time, children 5th grade and under are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Gracious God, we confess the darkness and cold in our lives. Like barren trees in winter, we do not bear the fruits of love as you would have us. Forgive our sin, heal our hearts, and be born in us again, that by your grace we may bear your light.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Leader: The good news of Advent is that Jesus Christ is coming into the world to make all things new. Hear these words of assurance from Romans 5: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

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.

Proclaiming God's Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Message

"Wonderful Counselor"

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Offertory

"E'en so Lord Jesus Quickly Come"

by Paul Mann

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Rev. Matt Drumheller

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer

Rev. Matt Drumheller

Our Father, 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.

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #8 "Lift Up your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

* Charge & Benediction

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

* Choral Response

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.

Organ Postlude

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST
A/V:

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the right side of the sanctuary as you enter is out of the range of the camera.

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.

FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.