

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, November 30, 2025
The First Sunday in Advent
Liturgical Color: Blue
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

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This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light the candle of hope not only that we might see that for which we are hoping, but what stands in the way, what has cluttered the spaces of our lives and what blocks this light from shining through. We pray for the clarity and vision given by this light, knowing it is the light of the one true light. Amen.

Community Prayer

You are, our hope, O God. You are the one we await, and you are the one who is always and already here. Forgive us for losing sight amid all the competing lights. Forgive us if we have assumed we are to wait *for* you, rather than waiting with you, joining in your work of love right here and now. Let us find you not in the gathering of things, but in the clearing out so that there might be more space in our lives and our hearts for love. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

“Making Room” (Hope)

Robert McClellan

The Advent journey begins with the theme of making room for that for which we hope. We start a series crafted by liturgical artist Marcia McFee called “The Inn” which positions us as the inn preparing to receive the Christ. What do we need to cast off that we might be ready to receive that for which we hope? How can our waiting be not a passive pleading for a savior to rescue us, but an active joining in the rescue effort? Our hope becomes in our joining in God’s way. The space made by “clearing out our junk” gives us the clarity and room we need to invite in the holy.

Scripture(s)

Jeremiah 33:14-16

14 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. 15 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. 16 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."

Psalms 25:4-5

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Hymns

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106

While We Are Waiting, Come 92

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

Advent recognizes
a profound spiritual truth:
that we need not fear the dark.
Instead, wait there.

Under that blue cope of heaven,
alert for the signs of dawn.
Watch.

For you cannot rush the night.

But you can light some candles.
Sing some songs.
Recite poetry.
Say prayers.

-Diana Butler Bass

1. What's some of the internal clutter you're carrying around?
2. How can you let it go, compost it, or transform it into something useful?
3. Where are you finding hope these days?
4. Where are you making it?
5. What *won't* you do so that you can have more space in your life for love?