**The First Sunday of Advent**

**November 22, 2020 Sunday Service**

Hallelujah! Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent Season.  The Advent Season is a time of preparing and waiting and a start to the new church calendar year.  While we won't be meeting for in person Worship during Advent and Christmas, we will continue our Online Worship Services.   If you would like to watch the service online,  click on "The Service" link below.  Father Shawn and Kate have put together a wonderful service video.

In the Gospel this week (Mark 13:24-37),Jesus is describing the events of the last days of Earth, and he promises that He will come again for us. We don't know when this will be, but we can hope in His promises and eagerly await His return. As we begin our season of Advent, let us remember that Advent is about the hope and hopeful expectation not only of the second coming but also in the joy of His first nativity.

Father God, we thank you for your unchanging word, that you are with us at all times, in the preparing, in the waiting, in times of joy, and in the storms.  We rest in your presence knowing that you love us and want only what is best for us.  We have hope because of you and hold onto your promises.  We pray that you would impress upon us the need to rest in your presence and be still and for healing in our communities and around the world.  We thank you and we love you.  Amen.

Blessings!

[**The Service Video**](https://youtu.be/DDKFxp_kSVs)
**Opening Hymn: "Have Thine Own Way"**

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and blessed be God’s creation. Amen.

**Collect for Purity (BCP 355)**
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no
secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Word of God**

**Collect of the Day**
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The First Reading                                                         Isaiah 64:1-9**
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

*The Word of the Lord,****Thanks be to God.***

**The Response                                                                           Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \* shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \* stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, \* how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \* you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \* the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; \* give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts, show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

**The Epistle                                                                   1 Corinthians 1:3-9**
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord*, Thanks be to God.*

**Sequence Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel \*vs 1-2
The Gospel                                                                                    Mark 13:24-37**

*The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*
***Glory to you, Lord Christ***

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.****Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

[**The Message**](https://youtu.be/Bak71nPteOU)                                                                               Father Shawn Clerkin

**Nicene Creed**
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.  We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**
In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind; that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthdays and anniversaries; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

**The Peace**
Celebrant: The Peace of God be always with you.
People: And also with you.

**Communion Hymn: "In the bleak midwinter"**

**A Form for Spiritual Communion**
**The Lord’s Prayer**
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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Agnus Dei**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

**The Communion Prayer**
In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you, and, since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you, and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

**A General Thanksgiving**
Almighty 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. And, 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 before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Jesus, we want to receive you in our hearts and we cannot do it in the sacramental way. Therefore, we ask you to come to us and fill us with your presence, your peace and your love. Grant us, Lord, the graces we need most. Amen.

**Advent Blessing**
God of love, Father of all,
the darkness that covered the earth
has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh.
Make us a people of this light.
Make us faithful to your Word
that we may bring your life to the waiting world,
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn: "How great thou art"**

**Prayers**

Each week we remember members of our congregation or others in need of prayer. If you wish to add a prayer request to the list, please contact Heather Michel, our Director of Communication at church@ststephens-fairview.org Only first names will be added to the list due to privacy.

Carlota, Judy, Michelle, Patty, Maddy, Gerry, Mike, Anna May, John, Marlene, Alicia, Dotte, Harper, David, John, Bishop Persico, Deborah, Lisa, Max, Tricia, Kathy, Anna, Mahal, Kate, Evie, Kimberly, Nancy, Julie, Kelsey, Mary Francis, James, Karen, Donald, Kevin, Don, Rich, Karen, Amy, Brian, Kenneth, Mary Jane, Cynthia, Anthony, Ben, Stevie, Mitch, Marj, Don, Maddie, Peter, Joyce and her children; Linda and Brian, Jean and her family, Sue and her family, Paul and his caregivers Mary Frances and Sallie, Craig and his caregivers; Daniel and Mary; Chad and his family.

**"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child." -Luke 2:4-5**