Order of Worship

**December 3, 2023**

**First Sunday of Advent: Hope**

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who are sad and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want friendship; to all who hunger and thirst for something real and lasting; and to all who come here, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Prelude** (*Please silence cell phones at this time*)

**Welcoming Songs: *#245 “O Come O Come Emmanuel”***

**Welcome and Greeting**\*

**Advent Reading and Lighting of the Advent “HOPE” Candle:**

*Bill Sandhoff and Jeanie Smith*

**Call to Worship:** (*from Isaiah 40.1-4) Elder Roy Palk, Liturgist*

Liturgist: Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

**People: A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Liturgist: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

**People: The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.”**

**Opening Hymn: *#244 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”***

**Prayer of Confession:** *Pastor Dustin*

O Lord Christ,

 we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love others.

 We confess our readiness to accept Your forgiving love,

 but also our refusal to forgive others.

 We confess our eagerness to grasp Your offer of redeeming love,

 but also our resistance to follow You without question.

 In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to act and live as we should.

 Come to us anew, and by Your grace,

 assist us to receive You with joy,

 as the shepherds; with gratitude,

 as Simeon; with obedience,

 as Mary; with love,

 as You have loved us.

 Even so: come, Lord Jesus.

 Lord, hear our prayers.

**Private Confession and Musical Interlude**

**Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel** *Jeanie Smith, Liturgist*

Liturgist:

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. (Isaiah 9.2)*

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Congregational Singing: *“On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand”***

**Teaching Moment:**

“It’s (Almost) Here.”

*Pastor Dustin*

*Advent Teaching Series, week 1*

**Pastoral Prayer and 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 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.***

**Offering and Offertory**

*(You are welcome to place your offering at the plates at this time,*

 *or one of the plates as you leave Worship, which*

*are located near the exits. You may also give online. God bless you!)*

**Invitation: Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

*(The Lord’s Supper will be available in cups as you enter the church. Please hold the bread and cup until we take them together as the body of Christ.)*

**Offertory Prayer to Thank God and Bless the Givers**

**Worship Through Music** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

**Prayer for the World and those in Need.**

**\*\*\*Announcements**

 *-Generosity/Giving*

 *-Fellowship Time*

 *-Opportunities to Serve this church: Sound booth, projector and screen, children ministry*

**Benediction**

**\*Congregational Singing*(So that Dustin can get to back to shake hands)***

**#426 “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”**