

Wilmington Island Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024, First Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O Christ in whom our lives are held, we wait for you again.

The story of our pilgrimage is filled with joy and pain.

We search for life's rich promise, wait for your promised grace.

With Advent silence round us all, we long to see your face.

Fill us each one with life anew and name us in your call.

Empower in each the ministries you give, O Christ, for all.

Now in the time of waiting – when waiting's hard to bear –

Surprise us in our daily path; step and meet us here. Amen.

Rob Johns, A Hymn for Advent

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Hayes
 Let Us Break Bread Together Larson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Courtney Cox & Bill Harwood

*HYMN 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O, blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.

Lift high you praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O, blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide you gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,

And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

O, blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you call us to prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, but we confess that most of our preparation goes into making sure our homes look nice and presents are bought. We get so caught up in the hustle and bustle that we forget about quieting ourselves and listening for your voice. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive us. Open us to the wonder of this season and the power of your Spirit. May this time remind us that in you and in your love, all things are possible. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*PERSONAL REFLECTION & SILENT CONFESSION

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORY TO GOD

582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. (3x) As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM *Bring Us Hope* Schram
 Chancel Choir; Isaac Gillette, cello

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:5-25

SERMON *No Ordinary Christmas Pageant*
 Zechariah and Elizabeth

*HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**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 own sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Invocation

Parks

***SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** INVITATION & THE
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

At the conclusion of the prayer, all join in the Lord's Prayer – "debts and debtors;"

Please come forward at the pastor's invitation, following the instructions in the bulletin.

*HYMN 744

Arise Your Light is Come

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Awake! My Soul

Handel/Powell

*Congregation may stand in body or in spirit

Congregational responses said in unison are in bold

