



Order of Worship
November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Intention

Dr. Andy Stoker

Lighting of Candle of Hope

John, Susan, Angie and Jenny Connelly

Loving God, we open the dark places in our lives to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Musical Interlude

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Tim Effler, organ

arr. Robert Hobby

Scripture

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

John Connelly

Homily

The Three Advents

Dr. Stoker

Invitation to the Offering

The Reverend Ann Willet

Offertory

A Thousand-Cherub Choir
based on *Mille Cherubini in Coro*
Laura Brandenburg, harp

arr. Daniel Burton

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Dr. Stoker & Reverend Willet

We are here at this Table of Grace because Christ invites us, and all are welcome. As we come, we pause to acknowledge the times that we have not been loving to God or to our neighbor. And by this prayer, we want to make things right again.

Let us pray:

Lord, you are a God who keeps promises. In our prayers and songs we say that we want to be Christians, but then we forget our promises. Our actions do not match up with our words. We hurt others. We think of ourselves first. And worst of all, we ignore you. Lord, forgive us, and hear our prayer. Amen.

Hear these comforting words:

When we repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy, our sins are forgiven. Trust in God's promises, and begin anew your life with God and all people In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.

Loving God, you made this world marvelous for us to enjoy.

You gave us Jesus to be our Savior and friend and to bring us to you.

You sent your Spirit to make us one family in Christ.

For these gifts of your love we thank you, and we join with angels and those who have gone before us in praising your holy name.

For your kindness to us and your goodness to all, we give you thanks. We thank you that you showed your love by sending your Son, who gave his life for us, and rose again from death, and walks with us each day.

We thank you that he has taken away all that separates us from you and has made us friends with you and with one another.

Again we thank you that he has brought us together at this table, to strengthen us by his love.

We remember that on the night that Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body that is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

And after the supper, he took the cup. He gave thanks to you and said, "Drink from this, all of you. This is the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, as we remember this first Lord's Supper and Christ's great love for us, we offer ourselves to you, as Christ offered himself for us,

Send your Holy Spirit on us and these your gifts of bread and cup, that we may know Christ's presence, real and true, and be his faithful followers, showing your love for the world.

We join our hearts and voices in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, saying

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 and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

Music During Communion

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Laura Brandenburg, harp

arr. Jill Justice

Benediction

Dr. Stoker

Participants

Laura Brandenburg, Harp; Tim Effler, Organist/Associate Director of Music & Arts
John, Susan, Angie and Jenny Connelly, Liturgists; Morgan McClinchie, Media & Technology Mgr.
Dr. Andrew C. Stoker, Senior Minister; Rev. Ann Willet, Executive Assoc. Minister