

**St. John's Reformed Church
November 30, 2025
First Day of Advent**

(Please join responsively by speaking aloud the bolded sections)

Pre-Prelude

Announcements and Hospitality

Our Approach to God

Prelude

Votum "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"

*Call to Worship

On Sundays and Mondays, **on good days and bad days**,
early in the morning and very late at night,

**here in this room, and out in the world, God, we long for you to
break in.**

Meet us in this space. **Surprise us with your presence.**

Fill this room with your good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

*Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* #56 v. 1-4

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation

Advent Wreath Lighting

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

We see hope when we look to the next generation.

We feel hopeful when we gather together.

We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

Candle of Hope

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn *All Earth Is Waiting* #57 v. 1

Prayer of Confession

**Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your
presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos
and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely
stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing
and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this
space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest
nights, you are always there. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison ***"Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us."***

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law: Wait for the Lord and in the Word of the Lord
put your hope. Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who
watch for the morning. There is no darkness with the Lord. O Israel,
hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
redemption and no darkness at all. -based on Psalm 130:5-7

May the Spirit guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

Musical Meditation

The Word of God in Proclamation

Prayer of Illumination

Lesson from the Old Testament: **Lamentations 3:55-57** (p.766)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* #763 v. 1-3

*Lesson from the Gospel: **Luke 1:5-13** (p. 56)

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayer for Blessing

Our Response to God's Grace

* Affirmation of Faith:

**We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night, and still we believe. We believe in
a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe
that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is
for all people.**

**So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable
love. So still, we believe. Amen.**

*The Peace The peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

The Offering

Offertory

*Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of hope, you gave your Son to free a lost world. You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage. You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears. You promise us a future with you. In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes. May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see the goodness of knowing you. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayers for the People of God

The Lord's Prayer (use 'trespasses')

**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, forever. Amen**

Prayer Response *Threefold Amen* *Amen, Amen, Amen*

*Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* #59 v. 1-3

Benediction

*Congregational Amen **"Go Now in Peace"**

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with us each hour of every day.
Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.
Know he will guide us in all we do.
Go now in love, and show we believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

*Postlude

*Indicates congregation to stand if able.

