

THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Ben Wingard, Pastor
The First Sunday of Advent
The Sunday of Hope
November 27, 2011

Reflect silently preparing your hearts for worship

Striking of the Hour

The Prelude

Choral Call to Worship

Responsive Call To Worship

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P And also with you.

L Let all people and all nations turn to the source of their salvation. Let them bow together in praise and seek the blessing of God.

P Here we will seek the light God offers us; here we will prepare to walk in God's path.

L Christ is the light of the world, his way the path for our feet.

P We await his coming in glory and in power.

L We wait with a holy hope for the time when he will redeem the world and vindicate all of those who have lived by faith in him.

***Hymn of Praise #152**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Lighting of The Advent Wreath

L Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope.

P Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. He is the one appointed by God to be judge of all things. He is the one through whom God has promised to save and redeem his people.

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT: HOPE — PEACE — JOY — LOVE

During each of the Sundays of Advent, we begin our services with the lighting of the Advent Wreath. The youth of our church lead this portion of the order of worship during this special time of the year.

The candle lighting litany includes the Prayer of Invocation for the day and is followed by the singing of "A Candle Is Burning" with the congregation.

"A Candle Is Burning" is an Advent song written by Sandra Dean (copyright 1986). The tune is "Away in A Manger." The words are reproduced here with permission as is the litany which is the copyright of Reverend Robert Fairchild.

Folk sometimes ask about the Advent Candle Wreath itself and what it means.

The wreath is of course a circle reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God. Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches.

The evergreen, like the circle, is a symbol of eternity but also of life. Holly is sometimes used instead of evergreen. The sharp points of the leaves of the holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns. The red berries remind us of his blood. There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ's blood fell on them causing them to be red ever since.

