

# 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29 November 2020

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Silent Reflection** - “Academic knowledge in ethics may influence our thinking about what we should do, but this is impotent compared to the transformation of our inner lives so that what we *should* do becomes what we *want* to do, and then what we in fact do. It has been rightly said that the longest distance in the world is from the head to the heart.”

- Glen Loury, “A Professor Under Reconstruction,” *Finding God at Harvard*, Kelly Monroe, ed. (Grands Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 75.

**Words of Welcome** - Welcome, dear friends. Because nothing can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39), we have gathered to respond in worship and praise.

## WE GATHER AROUND GOD’S WORD

**Prelude:** (10:00) *Prelude*, from *Lyric Suite*

Alfred V. Fedak (United States, b. 1953)

### The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

8:30 The Mahoney Family

10:00 The Bartoe and Stoner Families

**Opening Hymn:** (sung by the cantor) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession:

**God of Justice, forgiveness and mercy, hear our prayers as we confess our sin. With moments so critical, we let time simply go by. With deliverance so near, we linger in the darkness. With Christ as our armor, we yet fear the unknown foe. With the night having passed, we still hesitate to greet the new day. Lead us forth, O God, that the moment may be met. Dispel the shadows, and let us go forth as those who are awake. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen**

### Silent Prayer of Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, believe the good news of the gospels.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## GOD’S WORD IS SPOKEN TO US

### Prayer for Illumination

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 2:1-5

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Pew Bible p. 773

### Message for Young Disciples

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bible p. 33-34

### Sermon:

**Like a Thief in the Night**  
The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Jensen

## GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

Presbyterian Hymnal p. 35

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,  
and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

### Prayers of the People

#### Joys and Concerns

When the minister prays, "Lord, we lift these joys to you,"  
the congregation responds, "**Thanks be to God.**"

When the minister prays, "Lord, we lift these concerns to you,"  
the congregation responds, "**Lord hear our prayer.**"

#### Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Presbyterian Hymnal p. 35

*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.*

## GOD SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE

**Hymn of Commitment:** (sung by cantor) Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Truro*

### Charge and Benediction

**Postlude:** (10:00) *Festivo*

Martin How (England, b.1931)

**The Service is Ended, Go in Peace.**