Service of Worship
November 29, 2026
1st Sunday of Advent

Mark 13:31: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle Pastor Todd & Isaac

Call to Worship

In God's house, we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
In God's house, we may come exactly as we are.
In God's house, we dare to hope.
We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
In God's house, all are welcome and all are heard.
So come and worship.
God is here. God is listening.
Let us worship our with-us God.

Hymn of Gathering: Hymn #88 **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we have been known to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, to don our favorite rose-colored glasses. We have been known to look for the bright side, to sweep the pain under the rug, to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss. We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves. Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores.
Silent prayer

With open hearts, we pray. **Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (p.574-575)

Music for Meditation

Second Scripture Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 (p.727)

Sermon Rev. Todd Davidson

Offering

Doxology – Hymn #83, v.1 **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

We believe even on the longest nights when our steps are unclear and fear takes hold, that the sun is still rising. We believe in that sunrise like we believe in God's promised day. So instead of giving in to the great unknown, we move, in spirit, toward that light. We summon our courage. We carry each other. We dance under the stars. We listen for the angels. And we believe the good news of the gospel, which says that God loves God's creation so fiercely that God took on flesh to be with us. This is the truth that sustains our journey. In this, we believe.

Hymn of Sending: Hymn #137 **He Came Down**

Benediction: "Mockingbirds" – Rev. Sarah Are Speed

Includes modified liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Mockingbirds

There is a mockingbird nest in the backyard.
Late into the evening,
even after midnight,
the mother will perch in the branches,
her little neck extending,
mouth opening,
chest proud,
songs pouring out.

I lie in bed with the windows open
trying to distinguish her hymns from her ballads,
each one a collection of trills and rasps,
swells and melodies.
This is how I fall asleep.

Did you know that a mockingbird can learn over 200 songs?
I never catch all of them.
But what I know is that
late into the night,
when no one else is listening,
God hears
every
one.

Rev. Sarah Are Speed

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