

CELEBRATING THE SABBATH
First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021 at 10 o'clock



*"Hope" is the thing with feathers -That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -And never stops - at all -*

Emily Dickinson

PRELUDE

*Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland
Now Come, Savior of the Gentiles*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

THE LIGHT OF HOPE

HYMN NO. 128

One Candle is Lit (verse 1)
**Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.**

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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**All: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies
exult over me.**

One: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are
wantonly treacherous.

All: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

One: Lead me in your truth, and teach me;

All: for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Psalm 25:1-5

HYMN NO. 138

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
Join as you are able!

[Click here to see hymn](#)

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INVOCATION

**Life-changing Spirit, as we prepare the way for Christ, outline the contours of our
repentance—in our life together as a church, in our relationships, in our homes and
beyond—that our lives may be turned around, more than we bargained for, but not less
than we dared to hope, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Brian Wren

ANTHEM *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* Elizabeth Poston
The First Church Choir

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM Amie Giguere

SCRIPTURE LESSON [Luke 21:25-36](#) (NT p. 104-105) Jane Cave

SERMON *Testifying to Hope* Michael Newheart

HYMN NO. 119 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* [Click here to see hymn](#)
Join as you are able!

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer Linda Bronstein and Amie Giguere

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon your children in the Middle East. Let hatred be turned into love, fear into trust, despair into hope, oppression into freedom, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice may be experienced by all. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Creator, 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.

RESPONDING WITH OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory *Zion Hears the Watchmen Singing* J. S. Bach
The First Church Choir

To Give an Online Offering Now: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give>
Or Give by Text: Text *GIVE* to (860) 222-7870. Click [here](#) to watch a demo video.

Doxology, Words: Hymnal, No. 47; Tune: Hymnal, No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN NO. 125 *Come, O Long-expected Jesus* [Click here to see hymn](#)
Join as you are able!

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* McGEE
The First Church Choir
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POSTLUDE *Come, Savior of the Gentiles* Johann Pachelbel