

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!

Please email Caitlyn in the office at officefelc@zoominternet.net to be added to the email list for a link to the service.

Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

Today is the first Sunday of Advent! As you prepare your home worship space for Advent, consider setting up an Advent wreath—a ring of four candles or lights. There is no hard and fast rule about what color the candles have to be. Four blue candles, three purple and one pink candle, or four white candles, are traditional. You can also use LED lights or electric candles or flashlights. The image of the Advent wreath is to remind us of the light of Christ that comes into the world.

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit

to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world.

Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

To make our hearts ready for the Holy Spirit, let us confess the sin which separates us from God and our neighbor and seek the forgiveness God offers us in Jesus Christ.

Silence for reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ God gives the power to become the children of God, and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN *“My Lord, What a Morning”*

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

HYMN OF PRAISE *O come O Come Emmanuel, sts 1 and 4*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE JESSE TREE

Let's pray through the season of Advent! At the end of this bulletin is an explanation of the Jesse tree and devotions based on the Jesse tree symbols for each day of the week. These devotions will also be put online on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/firstenglishbutler.

THE WORD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 64:1-9**

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 *read responsively*

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel:

Alleluia! Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY *online*

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In joyful expectation that he will come to our help, let us pray for Jesus to come among us with the words, "Come, Lord Jesus,"

Promised One, as we celebrate your advent among us, come to your Church as Lord and Judge. Keep us focused on your love, your gifts, and your promises; help us to live in the light of your coming; and give us a longing for your rule. We pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for all nations in our world torn apart by war and political instability, especially for the people of Ethiopia in the midst of civil war, and for our own nation, in the midst of change and transition. Before you rulers will stand in silence. We pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your people with a message of peace. We pray especially for those who experience rage, helplessness, and anger in the stress of these days. Sustain those who must absorb their hurt and anxieties, and give us all the victory over death, temptation, and evil. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as physician and friend. Heal those who are sick, attend to those who are lonely, support those who work in care facilities and hospitals, journey with first responders as they care for people in crisis. We pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as Saviour and Comforter. Break into those areas of our lives where we live with failure and distress. Visit those who are incarcerated--we remember especially those at Butler County Prison. We pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us from heaven with power and great glory, to lift us up to meet you to live with you forever, with all your saints and angels, and with all those who have gone before us. We pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to the joy of your kingdom, where you live and reign, with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Finally, as you have taught us, we are bold to pray:

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 and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Amen.

HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Holly Schubert	Reader
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Holly Schubert	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Jack and Amy Beiler	Counters

Flowers are given to the glory of God by First English Lutheran Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 11/30	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 12/1	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 12/2	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 12/3	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
Saturday, 12/5	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	10:00 AM	DAR
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our 2020 Christmas Tree Drive begins today and continues through December 13th for our Butler County Children and Youth. Your generous donations will make this Christmas more special for these children. Please use the special line of your offering envelope and make your check payable to First English Lutheran Church. Thank you!

If you would like Christmas flowers, please place your order with the church office (724) 283-2378 or officefelc@zoominternet.net by next Sunday, December 6th. Options include: Poinsettia - \$6.25 (red, pink, white, burgundy, jingle bells or marble), Cyclamen - \$8.30 (red, pink, white, or purple), or Christmas Cactus - \$4.15

The 2021 Flower Chart is posted. If you would like to sign-up for a date in 2021, please let the church office know (724) 283-2378 or officefelc@zoominternet.net.

PRAYERS

The Lawson family, the Bodnar family, Tyler Jacob Huey, Meredith, Mary and Eleanor, Larry, Frederick Miller, Edna Hartman, Jim Buehler, Justin Buehler, Cyndy Halin, Gene Fozard, Cindy Regis & her daughter Angie, Josh, Aryl Bashline, Dave and Diana Braun, David and Gina & family, Ida Miller, Shirley Sellers, Crystal, the family of Mary Heist, Gayle Wynn, Mary Maloney, the family of Ryan Warheit, the family of Scot Taylor, Claude, Audrey & Jonah Clark, Ed Beck, the family of Jim Templet, all those affected by the wildfires in California and Colorado, the family of Edgar Nieto, the family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, the family of Frances Cypher, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Graham Cannon, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, the family of Mildred Dollhopf, Sandy Snyder, David and Emma Lee Hartle, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Asyiah, the family of Nancy, the family of Jean Purvis, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, Doug Horner, Sandy, Lisa, Wendy, Rhonda, Judy M., Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Kitty Walker, Hope & Bruce Keeler, Gina Ambrosio, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Tad Sellers, Ralph D'Antonio.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11

Good news of God's coming to a people in exile

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Waiting for and hastening the day of God

Mark 1:1-8

John appears from the wilderness