

# First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2014 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

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## Welcome

### \*Passing of the Peace

**Prelude** *Keep Your Lamps* Andre Thomas  
*Sanctuary Choir; Keren Gibson, soloist*

### Introit

\***Lighting the Advent Wreath** (insert) *Robbi Biggs Family*

\***Opening Hymn #196** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

\***Affirmation of Faith #881** The Apostles' Creed

\***Gloria Patri #70**

### \*Centering Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come into our midst. Come into our hearts. Come into our homes and our community, into our schools and workplaces. May we welcome you everywhere, making room for you, preparing for you, anticipating your arrival with joy and reverence. We commit this season of Advent to becoming ready. Shine your light in those nooks and crannies we keep in the shadows. Sweep the cobwebs from our long-hidden doubt and fear. Repair our torn and wounded places. We long for your arrival. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

### Children's Message

**Psalter Reading** Psalm 80:1-7 Hymnal, Page 801  
Leader: "The Word of God for the People of God." Response #1  
People: "Thanks be to God."

**Ministry of the Word** Isaiah 40:1-11 (NLT)

\***Hymn of Preparation #2152** (insert) *Change My Heart, O God*

**Sermon** *"Travel the Highways of Advent:  
The Straight and Leveled Highway"* Rev. Bates  
*Luke 3:1-14*

### Pastoral Prayer

### Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer #895

Offering & Offertory

\***Doxology #94**

\***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We are entering the season, holy God, in which giving becomes a primary focus. As we begin to think of the perfect gifts, the crowded malls, the unfinished shopping lists, we ask for grace that we might not push our giving to you to the bottom of our priorities, that we will experience freedom and joy in giving to both you and others, and that the joy of your gift to us in your Son will permeate our hearts and lives. We offer our time, talent and treasure to you with grateful and generous spirits. Amen.

\***Closing Hymn #384** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

\***Benediction**

\***Postlude**

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*\*For those who are able, please stand*