

First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: Jesus says I am coming soon.

People: **We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Allan and LaDonna McClure

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

People: **Be strong and courageous, be careful to live according to everything Moses commanded.**

Leader: Do not let God's Word depart from your mouth.

People: **But meditate on it day and night.**

Leader: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

People: **Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in our hearts because nothing is impossible with our God!**

Leader: Come, join with me in standing as you are able and singing together our Hymn of Praise, **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** hymn #2 in your blue hymnal.

HYMN OF PRAISE #2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (blue hymnal)

CONFESION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Almighty God, because nothing is impossible with you, we come into your presence confessing our sin, confident of your mercy and forgiveness. For lack of reverence; for calculating minds; for going along with the majority—

People: **O Christ, forgive us.**

Leader: For selfishness that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth; for artificial life and worship—

People: **O Christ, forgive us.**

Leader: For self-indulgence; for being pompous and puffed up with self-importance—
People: **O Christ, forgive us.**

Leader: For cynicism about our fellow Christians; for cruel indifference; for being satisfied with things as they are and failing to trust that with you nothing is impossible—
People: **O Christ, forgive us.**

Leader: For token concern for the poor, the lonely and the loveless people; for confusing faith with good feelings—
People: **O Christ, forgive us.**

Leader: For everything in us that hides your divine power—
People: **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

Leader: Hear the good news! Because of his death and resurrection, Jesus is our Savior. The Lord God has given to him the throne of his father David. Jesus reigns over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Therefore, you are fully and forever forgiven in Jesus' name.
People: **Nothing is impossible with our God!**

GLORIA PATRI - Hymn #579

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!
People: **And also with you!**
Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another!

TIME WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament: Joshua 1:7-9
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Leader: The word of God, for the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Open the Door
Pastor, Eddie Mariel

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Jeanne Homan

DOXOLOGY - Hymn #592

PRAYER'S OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Leader: Heavenly Father, we have a lot in common with Mary. When we consider the enormity of the promises you have made accompanying the birth of Jesus, we also ask, “How will this be?” To which you answer back in your Word,
- People:** **Nothing is impossible with our God.**
- Leader: Father, every promise you have made about Jesus and our redemption purchased through his shed blood and empty tomb will happen. Indeed, your great and glorious promises are always “Yes and Amen.” And so we confess,
- People:** **Nothing is impossible with our God.**
- Leader: Jesus, on your Second Advent, you will finish making all things new—changing this sinful and dying world into the New Jerusalem. This promise is so overwhelming that you remind us,
- People:** **Nothing is impossible with our God.**
- Leader: Father, heal the pain in our families. Restore unity. Release compassion and kindness. And let the love of Jesus pervade and permeate our homes. We believe that,
- People:** **Nothing is impossible with our God.**
- Leader: Father, through your Holy Spirit, empower us to think of others more often than ourselves; not to keep a record of wrongs; and no longer rehearse the ways others have hurt us, and the ways we’ve hurt them. Remind us again that,
- People:** **Nothing is impossible with our God.**
- Leader: And so we say with Mary, we are your servants, Lord. Let it be to us according to your Word.
- People:** **We pray in Jesus’ glorious and grace-filled name. And we pray the words he taught us to pray, saying:**

CLOSING HYMN #19 *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph* (blue hymnal)

BENEDICTION

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

People: **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

Leader: So that whatever we do, in word or deed.

People: **We do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

Leader: Giving thanks to God the Father through him because

People: **Nothing is impossible with our God!**

RESPONSE SONG #41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)* (blue hymnal)