

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**115 Northfield St., Montpelier**  
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**ADVENT I**

**November 28, 2021**

Preparation

Pre-service Music

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*See back page*

Prayer of the Day

Hearing the Word

The Lessons

*Insert*

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

*Silence for Meditation*

Psalm: 25:1-10 *(Read responsively by whole verse)*

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Silence for Meditation*

Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand and speak together:*

**Hallelujah! Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near. Hallelujah!**

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21: 25-36

Sermon

Rev. Rick Neu

Response to the Word

Hymn of the Day: "Wake, awake, for night is flying" LBW #31

The Nicene Creed

*Insert*

Prayers of the People

*The congregation is seated for the prayers  
which begin with an extended period of silence*

Peace and Offertory

The Peace of the Lord

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: "Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior" WOV#614  
*(Verse 1 - Refrain / Stanza / Refrain)*

Offertory Prayer:

L: God of Abundance,

**C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience, hope and love, as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Penitential Rite

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

L: God of all time,

**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Absolution

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

p. 68

Our Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei *(Lamb of God)*

p. 72

*Following, please be seated for a period of prayer and meditation while the pastor and assistants commune.*

Communion

The Dismissal

Blessing

**L:** May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, one God, be upon you and remain with you forever. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Fling wide the door"

LBW #32

Benediction

**L:** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**  
***The Wonder of the Season***

*Litany:*

Reader: Advent is a time to remember the wonders of our faith.  
**C: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.**

Reader: Advent is a time to be amazed at God's wondrous love.  
**C: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.**

Reader: Advent is a time to retrace our past, and reclaim the hope of our future.  
**C: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.**

Reader: Advent is a time to be awed by God's unfolding plan for creation.  
**C: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.**

*Candle Lighting:*

Today we light the **first candle**. The first candle reminds us that the season of Advent is a time of unspeakable wonder. As we begin our Advent journey, let us stand amazed at the promise God has fulfilled, the love God has shown, and the joy God has given through the birth of Christ.

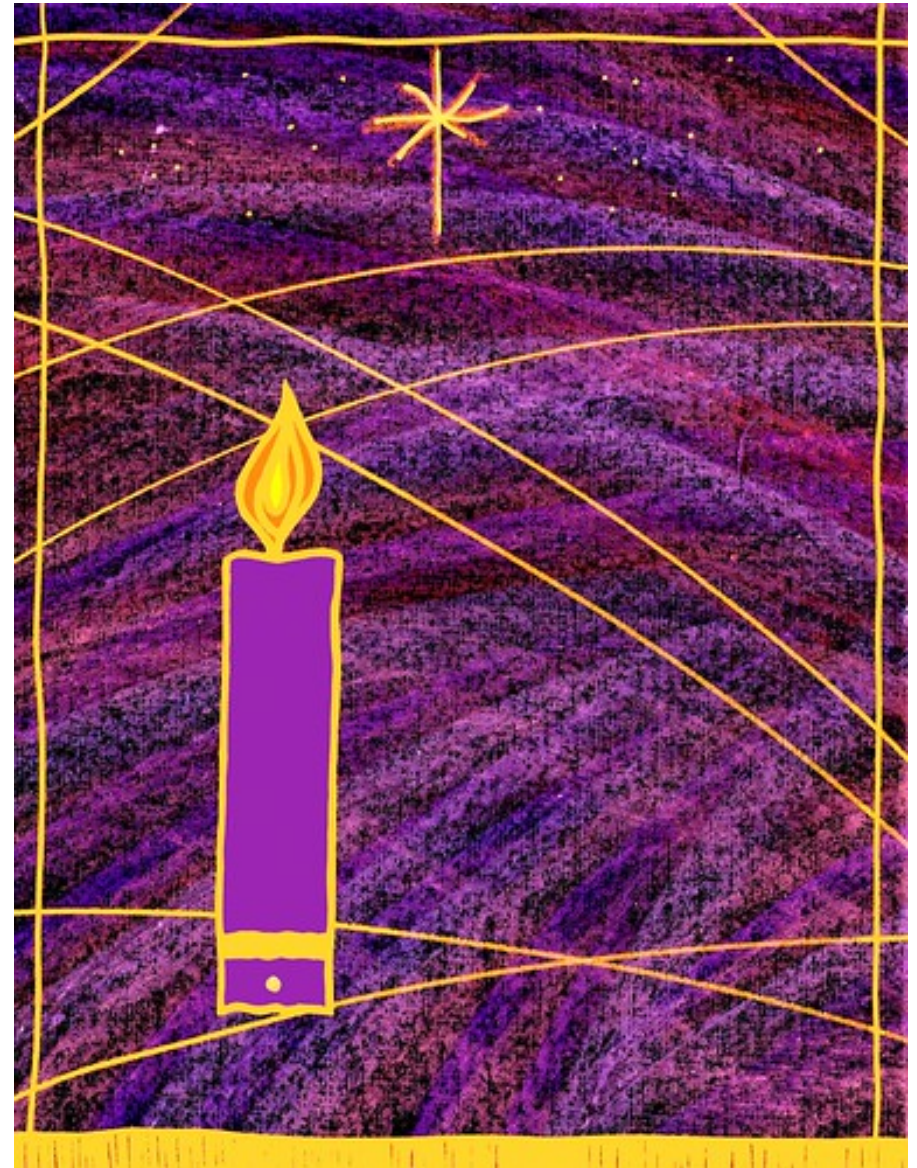
**Advent and Christmas at Shepherd of the Hills:**

December 5 (Advent II) – Will be led by Rev. Rick Neu.

December 12 (Advent III) – This morning's worship will be led by Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy.

December 19 (Advent IV) – – This morning's worship with Rev. Rick Neu will be our traditional service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and will include the blessing of our Christmas tree. After the service, we will decorate the Church and tree for Christmas.

December 24 (Christmas Eve) 5:30pm. Led by Rev. Rick Neu, we join in singing our favorite carols, celebrating the birth of our Savior, as recorded in Luke 2, and rejoicing with Holy Communion.



## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

## Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted  
all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the  
sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and  
faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and  
your testimonies.**

## Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

## 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and  
glorified.  
He 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

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. *A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities (*local, state, and national government officials may be named*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**



LITURGY PIECES

614 *Refrain* Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

Em Bm Em Am D Em C G Am D Em C Bm

Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa-ther, call-ing us to life:

Em Am Em Bm Am D G Em C Em7 Am Bm Em

Son of God who leads us to free-dom; glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

1 You are the Word who calls us out of dark-ness;  
 2 You are the one whom proph-ets hoped and longed for;  
 3 You are the Word who calls us to be ser-vants;  
 4 You are the Word who binds us and u-nites us;

C G Am Bm C D

you are the Word who leads us in-to light; you are the Word who  
 you are the one who speaks to us to-day; you are the one who  
 you are the Word whose on-ly law is love; you are the Word made  
 you are the Word who calls us to be one; you are the Word who

Em Em7 C Am Dsus4 D G Em

*Refrain*

brings us through the des-ert: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
 leads us to our fu-ture: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
 flesh who lives a-mong us: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
 teach-es us for-give-ness: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

C Am Dsus4 D C Am D Bm *Refrain*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na.

Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and in her  
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, and saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart new joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,  
an - gels sing be - fore you. The harps and cym-bals all u - nite.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
for her Lord comes down all glo - rious, the strong in  
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where, dwell - ing



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
with the choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your daz - zling light.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear,



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the  
Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we  
what joy is ours! Cre - scen - dos rise; your halls re -



Lord, whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.  
view where you have bid us dine with you.  
sound; ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.  
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

## Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!



