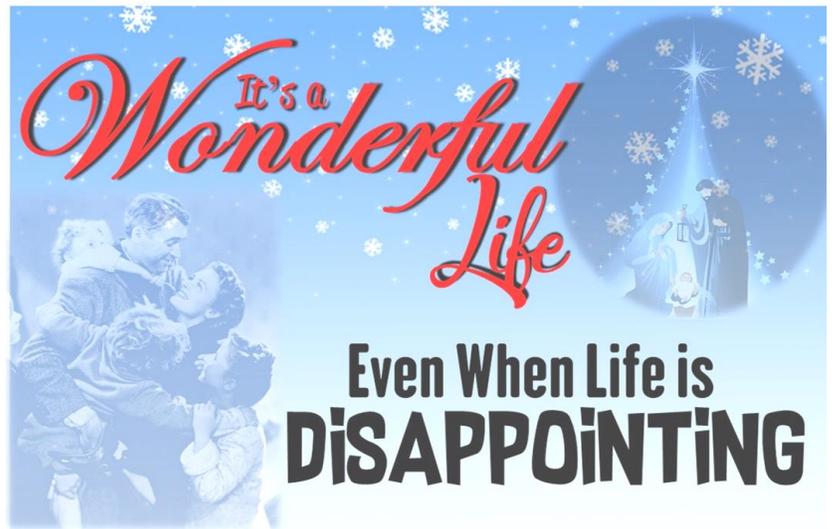


WORSHIP GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2020

To many Americans, the Christmas season wouldn't be complete without at least a few scenes from "It's a Wonderful Life." Though not a Christian movie, it does reflect what the Advent and Christmas season proclaim. Despite the setbacks we face, we still have a wonderful life because of the Christ of Christmas.



Pastor: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. So we begin this Advent season in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls. In you, O God, we trust.

P: The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ. They pointed the people to the Savior, who would be a king in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

C: All the world waited for this hope to come and redeem them.

P: We light this candle to point out the sure hope that God's promises endure.

C: As the followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that as he came to us as humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.

HYMN:

Savior of the Nations Come

CW 2

♪ **Savior of the nations, come; virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child, of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned, yet to be in heav'n enthroned!**

**From the Father's throne he came and ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell. high the song of triumph swell!**

**Praise to God the Father sing, praise to God the Son, our King.
Praise to God the Spirit be, ever and eternally.**



P: Almighty Lord God, we have come together to stand in your presence, to hear your Word, and to worship you. But who may appear in your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on you for help?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart. He shall receive blessings from the Lord.

P: O holy and righteous God ...

C: ... by your word I recognize that I am sinful by nature and that I have sinned in countless ways. Today I particularly think of the times that I became disappointed by what I didn't have and failed to see the many blessings I still had. Forgive my short-sightedness, and my lack of thankfulness. Renew me that I may see the wonders you bless me with each day.

P: Rest assured that God has heard your confession and by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you in the name of the Father, and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming. Bless our worship. Help us live holy and righteous lives. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem for He reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☐C: Amen



THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 23:5-8

Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who will reign wisely as king and establish justice and righteousness on earth. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely. This is his name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. ⁷ So, mark my words, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no longer be said, "As surely as the LORD lives who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt," ⁸ but, "as surely as the LORD lives who brought up the descendants of the house of Israel and led them out of a land in the north and from all the countries where I had driven them." Then they will dwell in their own land.

(tune: From Heaven Above CW 38)

**♪ Good news from heav'n the angels sing;
Great joy the tidings which they bring:
In Bethlehem is born a Child
By whom the world is reconciled!**

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light. ¹³ Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

(tune: From Heaven Above CW 38)

**♪ O Advent King, our sins forgive;
Come in our lives and hearts to live,
And let our humble souls become
A temple worthy of your name.**

Psalm of the Day: (24)

P: Who may go up to the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, whose soul is not set on what is false, who does not swear deceitfully.

P: He will receive blessing from the LORD

C: and righteousness from the God who saves him.

P: Such are the people of Jacob who look for the LORD,

C: who seek your face.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21:1-9

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²telling them, "Go to the village ahead of you. Immediately you will find a donkey tied there along with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, "The Lord needs them," and he will send them at once." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ⁶The disciples went and did just as Jesus commanded them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their outer clothing on them, and he sat on it. ⁸A very large crowd spread their outer clothing on the road. Others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them out on the road. ⁹The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed kept shouting, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.

MEDITATION TEXT: Psalm 13

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ²How long must I experience worries in my soul, sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy tower over me? ³Look at me. Answer me, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes so I do not sleep in death, ⁴so my enemy does not say, "I have overcome him," so my foes do not rejoice when I fall. ⁵But I trust in your mercy. My heart rejoices in your salvation. ⁶I will sing to the LORD because he has accomplished his purpose for me.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: EVEN WHEN LIFE IS DISAPPOINTING



CONFESSION OF FAITH:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to
judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and

the life everlasting. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN:

The Advent of Our King

CW 1

**♪ The advent of our King, our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.**

**All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.**

SPECIAL PRAYERS: