

**St. John's Reformed Church**  
***First Sunday of Advent***  
***November 29, 2020***

***Let's work together to make sure St. John's can continue to worship inside the Sanctuary by adhering to the following:***

- Be sure that your mask is covering your mouth and nose at all times when you are inside the building and maintain 6ft. of social distance between you and others.***
- Either speak or internalize the words to the responses, creeds, and prayers. Please do not sing or hum.***
- Wait to be dismissed at the end of service and then immediately proceed to an exit.***

Prelude

Welcome

**Our Approach to God**

Votum      Our help is in the name of the Lord our God, Creator of heaven and earth. **Amen.**

Sentences (from Isaiah 2)

Leader:      In days to come, many peoples shall come and say...

**People:      Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob...**

Leader:      that he may teach us his ways...

**People:      and that we may walk in his paths.**

Leader:      For out of Zion shall go forth instruction

**People:      and the word of the Lord shall come from Jerusalem!**  
**Let us worship the Lord who is coming!**

Prayer of Invocation

Salutation

Prayer of Confession

**Visit and rescue us, O most Holy God; come and be our Savior.**

**Our sins against you and one another are too many for counting; we have become lost and directionless. O Lord, in you alone are righteousness and strength. Forgive us! And then come and bring us new hidden surprises of your love.**  
**Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison (*Please do not sing or hum*)

***Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.***

***Lord have mercy upon us.***

Assurance of Pardon

Believe this Gospel and go forth to live in peace. **Amen**

Summary of the Law **Matthew 22: 37-40**

Gloria Patri (*Please do not sing or hum*)

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

Lighting of the Advent wreath

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make  
straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

-Isaiah 40: 3

Choral Anthem *All Earth is Waiting v.1*

Children's Message

*(maintaining physical distance)*

## **The Word of God in Proclamation and Sacrament**

Prayer for Illumination

Lectionary Lessons:

Old Testament Lesson **Isaiah 42: 6-9**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Lesson

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon ***Surprise!***

-Rev. Dr. Donald Heringa

Prayer for Blessing

\*Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and 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; on 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 catholic\* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

*(\*The Church universal, that exists in all times and places.)*

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Our Response to God's Grace**

Prayer of Dedication *(offering plates are in the fellowship hall)*

Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer (use 'trespasses')

Choral Anthem *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Benediction

Postlude

\* Indicates congregation to stand if able.

***Wait to be dismissed at the end of the service and then immediately proceed to the exit.***

***Sound production for the choral music in the YouTube and in-person worship by Matt Fenaroli. St. John's is grateful for his service.***