

First Sunday of Advent year C

God is Present even when He is Hidden

Introduction

Music: *O come , O come Emmanuel – The Piano Guys*

1 OPENING PRAYER

Psalm 25 Read by David Suchet

In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.

I trust in you;

do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

Show me your ways, LORD,

teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Saviour,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,

for they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;

According to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.

2 BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH

Lighting of first Advent candle

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son.

As the light from this candle,
may the blessing of Christ come upon us,
brightening our way and guiding us by his truth.

May Christ our Saviour bring life
into the darkness of our world,
and to us, as we wait for his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

First Week

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ,
desire of every nation,
Saviour of all peoples,
come and dwell among us.

ALL SING ECHO: *Come Lord Jesus, Come - Landry*

3 READINGS

Jer. 33:14 -16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

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.

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

Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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.

1 Thess. 3:12 - 4:2

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.

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.

Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. **For** you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

ALL SING: Psalm 25

To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul, O my God.

To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul, O my God.

Yahweh, show your ways to me.

Teach me your paths

and keep me in the ways of your truth,

for you are the God that saves me.

To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul, O my God. Repeat

All day long I hope in your goodness.

Remember your love,

the love that you promised long ago,
and the kindness that you gave from of old.

To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul, O my God. Repeat

4 LECTIO: BREAKOUT GROUPS- 20 MINUTES

Guide for sharing: What is the Good News for ME in these readings? Avoid sharing on 'topics', or discussion or debate. Brevity will allow others to share.

5 CONTEMPLATIVE MOMENT

Introduction

On Prompt – come forward, light a candle.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus – Smith (**Join in Refrain**)

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace

Contemplative Moments

6 PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL: THANKSGIVING/PETITION/ FORGIVENESS

7 AWAKE FROM YOUR SLUMBER – SHUTTTE (all stand)

Awake from your slumber
arise from your sleep
a new day is dawning
for all those who weep

The people in darkness
have seen a great light
the lord of our longing
has conquered the night

Let us build the city of God
may our tears
be turned into dancing
for the lord
our light and our love
has turned the night into day

We are sons of the morning,
we are children of day.
The one who has loved us
has brightened our way.

The lord of all kindness
has called us to be
a light for his people
to set their hearts free.