



**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE  
DECEMBER 1, 2024**  
(The congregation may remain seated)

Readers:

Reader: Our soul waits for the Lord; God is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in the Faithful One because we trust God's holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:20-22)

1<sup>st</sup> voice: Something's coming!

2<sup>nd</sup> voice: It's more than presents!

3<sup>rd</sup> voice: It's more than lights!

4<sup>th</sup> voice: We open The Book and read the promise.

**All: God will be with us.**

One voice: Our hearts are glad; we trust God's holy name.

**All: God's never ending love surrounds us.**

One voice: Today we light the candle of Hope.  
(Light the first purple candle)

**All: Our hope is in the Lord**

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## **THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

One: God spoke in the beginning; out of darkness came night and day, out of emptiness came creation, out of loneliness came humankind. And God said, "This is very good."

**All: God spoke when the world was troubled; giving voice to prophets from the earliest days, moving through Mary as she gave birth to her child, crying as a vulnerable baby lying in a manger. Still God said, "This is very good."**

One: God speaks today; breathing energy into our weary lives, challenging our celebrations and sharing our pain, dancing with songs of justice and peace. We shout, "This is very good."

**Let us pray together:**

**We gather at your table, O God, and we open wide our hearts awaiting the one who deals with our short comings. May Emmanuel descend to us, we pray, casting out our resistance and entering in; may Christ be born in us each day; we pray through Christ's name. Amen.**

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you – do this in remembrance of me." Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. (serve)

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, after supper saying: This cup is the new covenant poured out for you. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Through this cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ give. The gifts of God for the people of God, all is ready. (serve)

Closing prayer: All praise is yours, O God. You bring us to this table as sisters and brothers. Lead us now, through each of our moments, to that glorious day when all your children will gather as family. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Your peace and hope made flesh. Amen!

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