



*“...those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)*

December 3, 2023
The First Sunday of Advent

Ministers
Pastor
Director of Faith Formation Ministries
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Director of Preschool
Maintenance Superintendent

All the People of Covenant
Dr. Kyle Allen
Jewel Aagaard
Richard Rudolph
Ronn Lowe
Anne Craig
Mark Overacker

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Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

Gathering

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

*Chiming of the Hour and Presentation of the Word

Prelude

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"
Robert Hobby

Welcome and Covenant Life

Moment for Mission

"Alternative Giving"

Kathy Slack

Candle Lighting Liturgy

The Advent of Hope

Maisie O'Dell, Donna Jones, Laura O'Dell

Introit

"Once in Royal David's City"
arr. Joel Raney

Sanctuary Choir; Ronn Lowe, piano

*Call to Worship**

One: In God's house,

All: we can be grateful, joyful, and hopeful.

One: In God's house,

All: we can be anxious and overwhelmed.

One: In God's house,

**All: we can be inspired or tired,
delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious.**

One: This is God's house.

You are welcome exactly as you are.

All: Let us worship the Lord of love.

*Hymn of Hope, #82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession** *(unison and silent prayers)*

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we are often over-achievers. Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we need this hour of worship and this day of Sabbath rest. We confess that we are exhausted by the daily news, and that our hearts are heavy for those in need close to home and around the world. O God, forgive us when we lose sight of you, and remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you. For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope, forgive us, and remind us that your grace abounds, always. In Jesus' name...

(silent prayers may be offered)

Declaration of Pardon

Response, #95

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Teaching

Time with Our Children

Jewel Aagaard
Director of Faith Formation Ministries

***Passing of the Peace** (*Greet one another, "Peace be with you."*)

*Children ages 4 – 11 may leave for Children's Worship
in the Green Room and will return during the last hymn.*

Prayer for Illumination

Paul Weary

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 5-7 (Pew Bible, OT p. 598)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"A Light Has Dawned"

Dr. Kyle Allen

Anthem

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
arr. Mark Edwards

Nurturing

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

***Communion Hymn, #88** (verses 1, 6-7)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Invitation to the Table

Table Blessing

Sharing the Sacrament

*As the bread and cup are passed,
please say to the person receiving each from you:
"The Bread of Life, the Cup of Salvation."*

Communion Meditation

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Lorie Line

Ray Zubler, bassoon; Ronn Lowe, piano

Communion Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Giving+

Offertory

"Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"
David Thorn

Reaching

***Charge and Benediction**

***Hymn of Devotion, #93**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Trinity Chimes

*Our Trinity Chimes played before the postlude provide the opportunity to
sit and enjoy the end of our service with music, or to exit quietly as our
Livestream continues for this part of worship.*

Postlude

"The King Shall Come"
David N. Johnson



Welcome! We are blessed to have you join our worship today, and we hope to keep seeing you! More information about Covenant is available on our website at covenantroanoke.org and you can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. We would love to get to know you better, and a card is available in the pew before you to begin this journey together.

Greetings, Parents! Children are always welcome in our worship services. If you so choose, a professionally staffed nursery is available for children ages 3 and younger downstairs. Please ask an usher for assistance.

We also have a Parents Room just outside the Sanctuary, with a changing table and rocking chairs. **Children's bulletins and activity bags are available** on the table in Heritage Hall. **We offer Children's Worship** during the second half of the service for children ages 4 to 11.

Cookies and lemonade await you! After worship, all are welcome to gather in Heritage Hall (the entrance area) to visit with church members and guests. Special thanks to June House and Meg Muton for hosting this morning!

Greeter: Jim Ryals

Ushers: Joe Gentry, Maggie Moen, Kathryn Overacker, Pete Trussell

Communion: Melissa Cranwell, Jeff Cutright, Ginny Fedison, Janathan Fiedler, Buce Johnson, Sandra Ryals

Liturgist: Paul Weary

Elder of the Month: Ginny Fedison

Deacon of the Month: Teri Ponton

Sound: Roger Dickenson **Video/Livestream:** Jena Bircher, Pranav Singh



In Our Prayers . . .

Church Members: Audrey Bashlor, Christine Beck, Tricia Cronise, Mary Jane Fisher, Lynnmarie Hancock, Jerry Lawson, Lindsey Nanz, Ann Cecil Renick, Carol Ryan, June and Forrest Smith, Roger Tims, Jo Wilson, caregivers, military service members and families

Family & Friends: Rob Adcox, Rob Ahlers, Kenneth Benner, William "Buzz" Caddell, Mike Cummings, Patrick Dooley, Cesia Enriquez, Peggy Evans, Heather Ford, Tyler and Rochelle Holm, the people of Malawi, Jim McGill, Becky Meisner, Mike Overacker, Bob & Betty Sizemore, Joseph "Joe" Wallace, Daniel Woodbury, Religious violence against Christians in northeast India

Cover Image: "Festival of Lights" John August Swanson

****Portions of today's service are from The Reverend Sarah Speed (sanctifiedart.com); used with permission as written or adapted.**

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