



*I have called you by name...
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
(Selection from Isaiah 43:1-2)*

**December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent**

Ministers
Pastor
Provisional Pastor
Director of Faith Formation Ministries
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Director of Preschool
Maintenance Superintendent
Administrator/Recording Treasurer

All the People of Covenant
Dr. Kyle Allen
Rev. Rachel H. Vogado
Jewel Aagaard
Richard Rudolph
Ronn Lowe
Anne Craig
Mark Overacker
Gail Schuler

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Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

Gathering

**Please stand as you are able*

*Chiming of the Hour and Presentation of the Word

Prelude "Prepare the Royal Highway"
Wilbur Held

Welcome and Covenant Life Rev. Rachel H. Vogado

*During our morning announcements,
please take time to pass and sign the friendship pads.*

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Introit "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
arr. Jay Rouse

*Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope and Call to Worship¹

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

One: Let us begin with the good news!

One: Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing,
loved by a gracious God.

One: Let us begin with music and singing!

One: Let us begin with warmth and welcome.

One: Today, we light the candle of hope in Christ
to shine as light for the world!

**All: May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.
Come, let us worship the Lord!**

***Hymn of Praise, #82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison prayer*)

Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response, Hymn #88 (verse 6) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Time with Our Children Jewel Aagaard, Director of Faith Formation

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

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

Response, Hymn #146 (verse 3) "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Teaching

Prayer for Illumination Sarah Baumgardner

New Testament Reading Isaiah 43:1-3a (Pew Bible, OT. p. 630)

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible, NT p. 49)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.**Sermon**

"How Can This Be?"

Dr. Kyle Allen

Anthem

"Once in Royal David's City"

arr. Joel Raney

Nurturing**Celebration of Holy Communion by Intinction***During our communion celebration, you are invited to come forward as led by our ushers to receive the sacrament of God's grace.**** Invitation to the Table, Hymn #347** (verses 1-2)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Prayer of Thanksgiving**Words of Institution****Sharing of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation****Communion Meditation**

"Once He Came in Blessing"

Wilbur Held

Communion Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

(Hymnal p. 35)

Celebration of Giving+**Offertory**

"The Angel Gabriel"

Robert Lau

Reaching***Hymn of Devotion, #93**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Charge and Benediction*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**

"Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying"

Robert Hobby

Music Notes from Ronn Lowe: The prelude this morning, "Prepare the Royal Highway," is a festive hymn to start Advent! The hymn lyrics proclaim "The King of Kings is near." The composer, Wilber Held, wrote many pieces for the organ. He was professor of Organ at Ohio State University and head of the keyboard department for over 30 years.

Our offertory, "The Angel Gabriel," has always been a favorite of mine - and guess what? The version that Sting sings is my favorite of all. If you get a chance, listen to it sometime - just search for it on YouTube.

We will end with the postlude, "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" which is among the most popular hymns ever for organists to begin Advent with. It is known as one of the king of chorales for Advent. "Wake, awake, for night is flying, The watchmen on the heights are crying Awake, Jerusalem, arise! Midnight hears the welcome voices and at the thrilling cry rejoices: The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia! With bridal care, yourselves prepare, To meet the Bridegroom, who is near." Blessings for Advent!

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. 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. 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.

You are invited to share your Joys and Concerns by writing them in the book on the stand outside the sanctuary. These will be included in the Prayers of the People during our worship service. (If you have a concern of a personal nature, please speak with the pastor or contact the office.)

***We extend our sympathy and prayers to
the family and friends of our dear member, Mike Miller,
who passed away on Tuesday, November 26, 2023.
Service arrangements will be shared when available.***

***The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by
Vicki and Bob Stauffer to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Vicki's sister, Lynn, and
those family members no longer with us.***

Elder of the Month: Meg Munton
Deacon of the Month: Scott Ramsburg
Assistant Deacon of the Month: Sherry Moran



In Our Prayers...Congregation: Audrey Bashlor, Christine Beck, Mary Jane Fisher, Dick Frahm, Lynnmarie Hancock, Jay Hylton, Jerry Lawson, Lindsey Nanz, Ann Cecil Renick, Carol Ryan, June and Forrest Smith, Jo Wilson, caregivers, military service members and families

Family & Friends: Greg Adcox, Rob Ahlers, Lowell Bashlor, Jr., Kenneth Benner, Andrew Craig, Jackie Rose, Mike Cummings, Patrick Dooley, Maria Dreiling, Cesia Enriquez, Heather Ford, Jim Haugen, Jo Jones, Pauline Mudrick, Kathy Roberts, Brittany Sexton, Bob & Betty Sizemore, Ezra Schuyler Soto, Joe Wallace, Daniel Woodbury, Religious violence against Christians in northeast India, Mission co-workers Tyler & Rochelle Holm and the people of Malawi, Jim McGill (Niger)

Cover Image: "When You Pass Through the Waters" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity (A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org)

1-Portions of today's service are adapted from The Reverend Sarah R. Speed, sanctifiedart.org

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