November 30, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Advent Thought

Advent announces that Jesus is coming and not through any action of our own. We do not deserve it. Advent happens. Advent means that Jesus comes again and for all time, at Christmas, this Christmas.

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ **November 30, 2025**
Mt Hope 8:30am **Greenfield 9:50am** **Grace 11:00am**
1st Sunday of Advent / Raised Above

Community News
Prayer List and Prayers of the People
Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

As the sun rises on this new season, we turn within and ask God to renew hope in each one of us.

For the sake of my relatives and friends, proclaim with joy, "Let us go to the house of our God and find hope within!"

Though the days are hard, and the news, grim, we turn to our siblings here asking them to trust God, as we have so many times in the past.

For the sake of my relatives and friends, we proclaim with joy, "Peace be within the walls of this house, that our hope might spread beyond!"

In our fears and our desperation, in our exhaustion and our pain, God wraps us in bands of hope, holding us together so we may continue the struggle for justice and peace.

For the sake of my relatives and friends, we proclaim with joy, "I will seek all that is good within the house of God, and I will carry it with me wherever I go!"

* *Invocation*

Emmanuel, we come here today to renew ourselves in the generosity of God's hope. We will climb the mountain hand in hand that we may learn again of God's promise to be with us, both in the valley and on the peaks. Let us set down our despair and rest in the light of God until we are renewed!

* *Opening Hymn* ***"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"***

Mt Hope VH #93 *Greenfield* CH #245 *Grace* VH #93

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God, it is not a year abundant with hope. We cry out for solace, for rest, for strength; we curse in anger at the horrors we see perpetrated in your name; we turn our backs on those who suffer, and we scorn those who bring suffering upon others. We are lost and demoralized, aching for the hope in your Word, and yet when you speak, we do not hear. We do not quiet the spirit within or allow your peace to fall upon us. We root ourselves in devastation when true strength is born out of your tender grace. Forgive us, God, for abandoning hope in favor of fear and a desire for retribution.

Words of Grace

God does not turn us away when we falter. We are, instead, taken in and given sanctuary so that we may revive in God's tender mercy. God will be our shelter while we rest, as well as when we are ready, once again, to rise up.

Thanks be to God!

Advent Candle Lighting Litany

Advent Scripture **Isaiah 2:1-5 NRSV**

The Future House of God

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
3 Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.
5 O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Today, we ***light the candle of Hope***.

In this season of waiting, Hope is not simply a wish for what may come, but a deep trust in God's promises. Isaiah tells of a day when nations will stream to God's holy mountain, learning God's ways, walking in God's path of peace. We hold onto the hope that God is guiding us even now—teaching us compassion, shaping us into peacemakers, and calling us to walk in the light of the Lord.

As we light this candle, we remember that Hope is the quiet confidence that God's future is already breaking into our present.

* Advent Candle Lighting Hymn **Insert Verse #1**

*"**Light the Advent Candle**"*

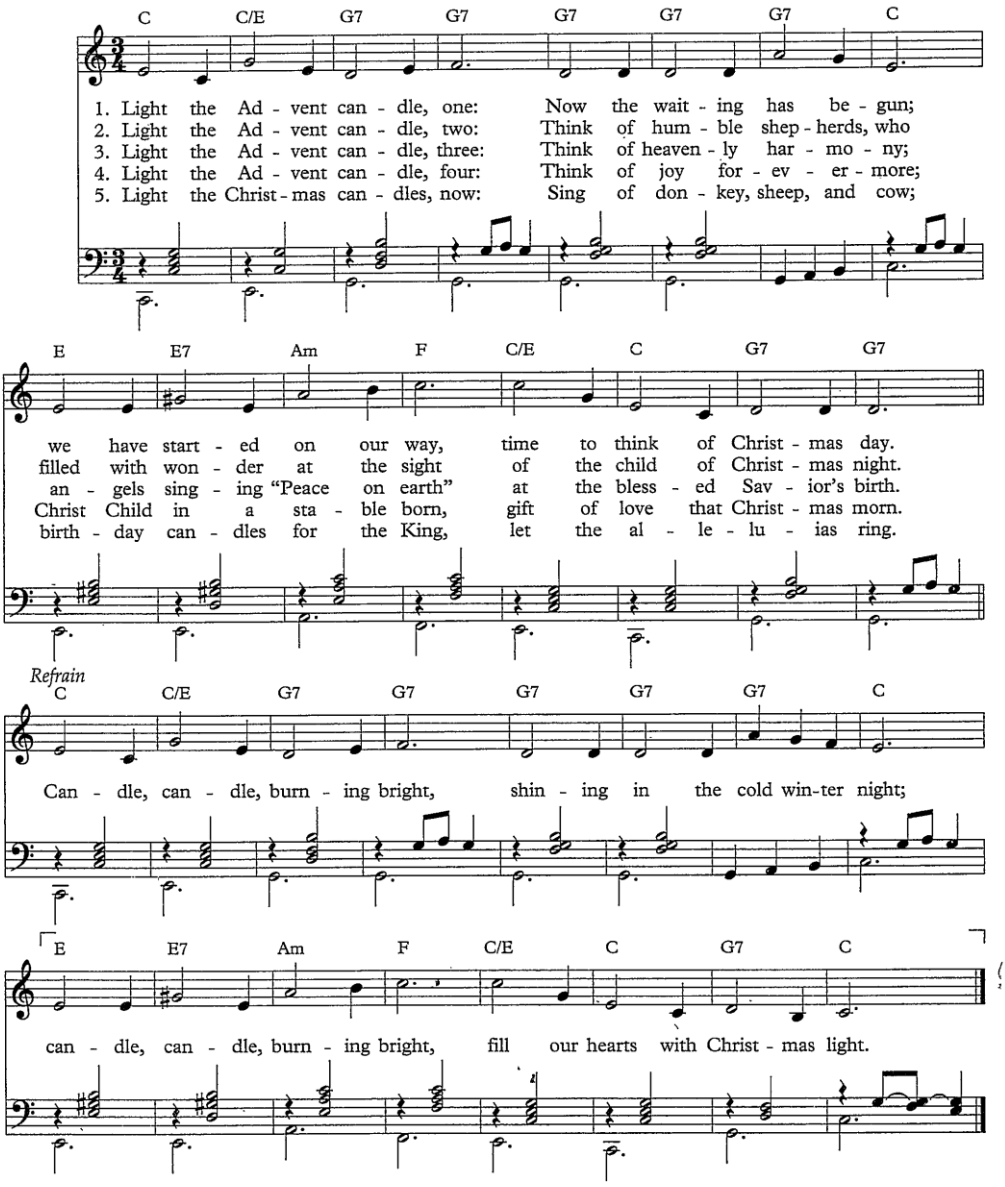
* Advent Prayer

God of Hope, as we begin this Advent season, open our hearts to Your light. Teach us Your ways, that we may walk in paths of peace. In a world weary with conflict and fear, kindle in us the Hope promised by the prophets—that Your kingdom of justice and peace is drawing near. Strengthen us to be bearers of that Hope for others, trusting that You are already at work redeeming all things. Amen.

Advent Song

2090

(Light the Advent Candle)



Congregation: Unison

WORDS: Mary Lu Walker (Luke 2:1-20)
MUSIC: Mary Lu Walker

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ADVENT CANDLE SONG
77.77 with Refrain

Epistle Reading — **Romans 13:11-14 NRSV**

An Urgent Appeal

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the
moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us
now than when we became believers; **12** the night is far gone; the
day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on
the armor of light; **13** let us walk decently as in the day, not in
reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not
in quarreling and jealousy. **14** Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

* The Reading of the Holy Gospel — **Matthew 24:36-44 NRSV**

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.) — **TH #497**

The Necessity for Watchfulness

36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37** For as the days of Noah
were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For as in the days
before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and
giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, **39** and they
knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so,
too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Then two will be in
the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. **41** Two women
will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be
left. **42** Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what
day your Lord is coming. **43** But understand this: if the owner of the
house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he
would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be
broken into. **44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of
Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

* Gloria Patri

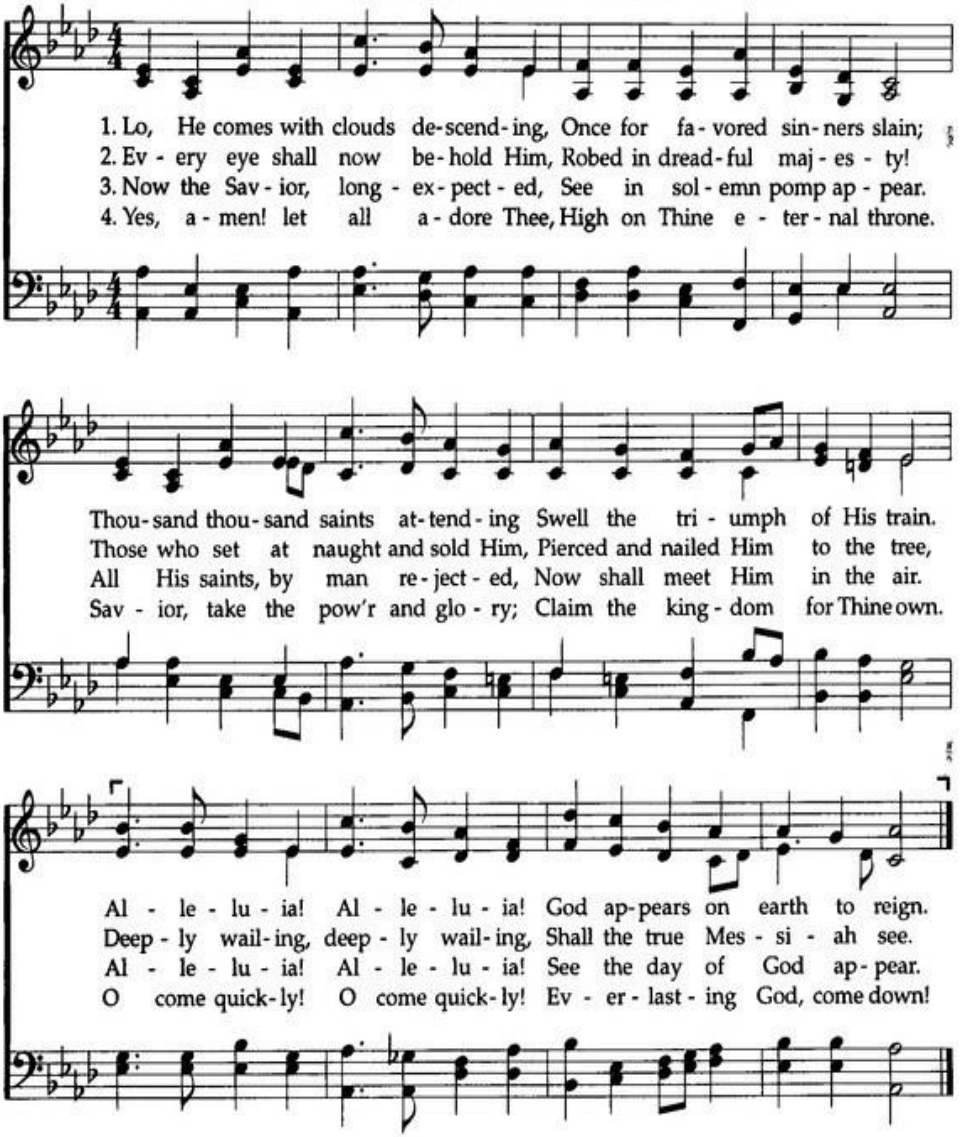
Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* Meditation Hymn — ***"Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending"***

Mt Hope Insert *Greenfield* CH #754 *Grace* Insert

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending 754

They will see the Son of Man coming with power and great glory. Matthew 24:30



TEXT: Charles Wesley and Martin Madan; based on John Cennick
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

REGENT SQUARE
8.7.8.7.8.7.

A higher setting may be found at No. 403

Today's Message

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* Sung Response *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"* TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement
Offertory (MH)
* Doxology TH # 551
* Offertory Prayer

Beloved Creator, we offer these gifts to you in the spirit of Hope. We place our trust in you and in those who faithfully care for your people, that these gifts will be used to protect and uplift those who are in need. Help us to remember our role to act as agents of your grace each and every day. Amen.

* Closing Hymn

"I Am Bound for the Promised Land/On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

Mt Hope VH #450 *Greenfield* CH #777 *Grace* VH #450

* Benediction

When we leave this place today, let us carry the flame of Hope within us, no matter how small it may seem. We feed it with the knowledge that God's love is incendiary. Our Beloved's breath blows through us, allowing the flames to rise and catch and give us strength all the days of our lives. Amen

* Three-Fold Amen **TH # 558**

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle

Raised Above: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent Year A was written by the Maria Mankin.