

**December 3, 2017**  
**Ten o'clock**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

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**GATHERING**

REFLECTION

*Amid painful and prolonged suffering, when there can be seen on the horizon of predictable history no relief from disaster, faith turns its face toward heaven not only for a revelation of God's will but also for a vision of the end of the present misery and the beginning of the age to come. (Fred Craddock)*

PRELUDE

*"We Three Kings"*  
The Chapel Bells

arr. Frances Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

**Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.**

Be alert! Keep awake!

**The time is drawing near:**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE AND OPENING PRAYER

*Lighting the first Candle of Advent are members of the Green Team*

\*HYMN NO. 357

*"The Days Are Surely Coming"*  
*Lighting the candles today is Acolyte Gordon Bruchac*

Llangloffan

CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION

**Almighty God, you warn us to read the signs for the coming of your glory—in the sun, the moon, the stars, the roaring of the seas and the waves, the distress among the nations. We have seen it all before. Nothing seems to change. Help us live with courage in this age of ambiguity where wars are fought for peace, and freedoms are stripped in the name of liberty. Forgive our lapse of focus, our sense that nothing ever really changes. Teach us to wait with patience, that we may be ready as our redeemer draws near.**

PERSONAL CONFESSION

In the name of the Coming One we pray,

**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

...Friends, believe the good news.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**



## GOING FORTH

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**The kingdom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.  
Come, Lord, and open in us, the gates of your kingdom.**

\*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please exchange greetings of welcome and peace with your neighbor.*

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*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

†If you are new to the church...**Welcome!** We're glad to have you here. Please ask an usher to direct you to *Visitor packets* at the rear of the church. They can be found on the table near the usher's closet under the balcony stairs. After the 10:00am service today, we hope you will join us for Coffee Hour in Room 120 located through the door to the left of the choir loft and left to the end of the hall.

†Our thanks to Adam Freda for preparing the Lord's Table today. Our Communion servers this week are: Teresa Akersten, Brian Archibald, Paul Califf, Chris Flanagan, Brittany Heun, Donna Heun, Lynn Legg, Ron Masson, Sandy Prater and Steve Urban.

†The flowers this morning, are given to the glory of God ...

... in memory of Eugene Schneider, father, by John & Liz Holda

....in memory of Marilyn O'Connell by Nancy & Ed McCarthy

...in honor of my daughter Cynthia Horvath's birthday on December 3rd, by Marlene Todd

†Your prayers of intercession are requested for those members and friends known to be *currently or recently* hospitalized or who continue to need our prayers and support:

...Harry Coppens, Jay Courter, Ruth Evans, Bill Hayden, Edith Jipp, Christopher Kerwin, Max Oehler, Barbara Piggery, Arline Pressl, Louise Ritscher, Richard Rose, Michael Sanok, Bob Scarrillo, Emil Schnell, Rob Thiemann, Laura Winter and Helena Wispelwey. The church office will be happy to verify their home addresses for you should you wish to send them words of encouragement or get well wishes.



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