

November 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

As I pondered the scripture texts for this coming Sunday, the prophet Isaiah's words grabbed me: "From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, *who works for those who wait for him.*" (Isaiah 64:4)

Advent is two days out, a season of waiting and preparation for the celebration of God coming to us in Christ. I absolutely love Advent. It was the season in our household we practiced most diligently when raising our children. Now, as adults, they join me in appreciation for this waiting time.

### **Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.**

The theme this first Sunday of Advent is Hope. The emphasis will be on our hope for Christ's return. Hope is seeing things as they are – including the suffering and chaos - while being sure that this is not the end of the story. All is well and will be well in Christ. We wait for Christ, and we do so actively. We wait and at the same time we participate in anything that is in line with God's rule and reign on earth as it is in heaven.

We will light our first purple candle online and hear a story of hope from within our community.

Please [contact me](#) for a link to Sunday's service.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

You may pick up your Advent devotional [here](#).

### **Sunday School for grades 4-6 at 11:15 a.m.**

For a link to send your child to Sunday School (grades 4-6), please contact our [family pastor](#).

### **Giving as We Wait**

One good way to spend our time as we wait for the fullness of Christ's coming is to give. Giving is God's activity. Giving is a way to actively live God's lifestyle as we wait.

You have recently been quick to give every time you have been invited. Here is a [picture](#) of the gift cards sent to Empathy House thanks to your quick response. There will be an update in Sunday's services about our Capital City Mission backpack donations.

### **Christmas Eve**

If guidelines for worship spaces continue to allow for gatherings up to 30% capacity, we will gather for in-person Christmas Eve services. [Please register](#) now for either 5 p.m. or 7 p.m. services. If they reach capacity, we will add a service at 9 p.m.

By candlelight, we will hear scripture and a Christmas reflection. We will enjoy Christmas music and participate in prayer. We will celebrate [Communion](#) in the same way we have been monthly during small in-person worship gatherings, always adhering to strict precautions.

### **Shine on Us**

One of our Sunday readings is from Psalm 80. Verses 3, 7, and 19 repeat this prayer: "Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved." It reminded me of Dean's song titled [Shine on Us](#). This may fuel your prayers. song titled [Shine on Us](#). This may fuel your prayers.

Have a great weekend!

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)