

**December 8, 2024**

Second Sunday of Advent



*Désert* by Charles Lapicque from wikiart.org

**To join worship this morning via zoom app, click this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2IKdz09>

(if you are asked for a password, it is: 890967). **To dial in by phone** call 1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter **839 2872 7469#**. Next, you will be prompted to enter your participant ID or to push #; **simply push # again.**

**Music will be displayed on the screen during the service.**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Introit:** “Comfort, Comfort” arr. John Ferguson

**Gathering Words:** from *Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich

**Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Hymn 115:** “The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore” verses 1-4

## **Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

**Sung Response:** "Prepare the Way of Our God" by Taizé

**Scriptures:** Baruch 5:1–9; Luke 3:1–6

## **Time with Children**

**Sermon:** "Sin and Salve," by Jane McBride

## **Prayers of the People**

Please share your prayer requests in the chat and we will pray with you.

## **Lord's Prayer**

A commonly used form is printed below. You are welcome to use the version most meaningful to you.

**Our God, 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 for ever. Amen.**

## **Offering**

We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. December's special offering is shared between the Mission at San Lucas Tolimán in Guatemala and the UCC Christmas fund. Give electronically at our website: [www.firstchurchmn.org](http://www.firstchurchmn.org); click on the "Support Us" link. You can also give by texting 612-255-4109: "\$(amount) Special" (for the monthly offering) or "\$(amount) General Fund. If you give by check, please make it out to First Church with "Christmas" in the memo line.

**Offertory:** "Shining Shore" by George Frederick Root

**Offertory Response:** "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines"

## **Prayer of Dedication**

## **Announcements**

**Hymn:** “The Bells of Norwich”

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:**

**Valet:** Bill Lindberg

**Readers:** Sarah Almén, Schanan Harris

**Usher:** Marilyn Burns

**Advent Candlelighters:** The Cooper Family

**Flowers:** Marilyn Burns

**Tech Support:** Tim Danz, Maggie George

**Coffee Hour:** Kris Felbeck

## *Coming up this week*

### **Sunday, Dec. 8**

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11:15a: Coffee hour (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: Congregational Meeting (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: Family Gathering

12:30p: Hospitality & Engagement Team (Zoom)

### **Monday, Dec. 9**

9:30a: SE Playgroup

6:30p: Faith Exploration Team

### **Tuesday, Dec 10**

Noon: Bible Study

1p: Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, Dec. 11**

7p: Choir rehearsal

### **Thursday, December 12**

9:30a: SE Playgroup

## **Sunday, December 15**

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11:15a: Coffee hour (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: Avent Marketplace

11:30a: Worship team (Zoom)

1p: Toy Giveaway

**Annual Meeting today.** We'll approve the 2025 budget, receive the annual report, elect board members & officers, share an update about our HVAC (heating/cooling) project and an anticipated capital campaign, and express our gratitude for those who have served as officers and board members. All are invited but we ask that only members participate in voting. Materials for the meeting were sent out by email.

**Read our Advent Devotional.** In it you'll find personal reflections, original and shared poetry, photographs, even original musical compositions, all shared by members of the congregation and inspired by our Advent theme of "All shall be well." To save paper, we encourage you to use the online version of the devotional. In addition, the photographs and printed music are clearer and more readable online, and you can zoom in to enlarge the page as needed. Thank you to all the contributors for your thoughtful, funny, touching, and inspiring offerings. It was truly a collaborative endeavor

### **Mark your calendars for these Advent activities!**

- Dec. 15 after worship: Advent Marketplace. Vendors will offer a variety of items and will be donating a portion of their proceeds to a cause of their choice. Be sure to bring cash or checks! If you would like to be a vendor (or if you would like more information about the marketplace) contact Xan Laurence: xanlaurence@comcast.net.
- Dec. 16, 7p: Longest Night service. This contemplative service includes poetry and special music.
- Dec. 22, Advent Voices in worship; all ages Cookies and Caroling afterwards!
- Dec. 24: Cookies/cocoa fellowship at 4p; Candlelight Christmas Eve service, 5p.

**From Moderator Linda Valerian,** “It’s that time of year when we in the First Church family show our deep appreciation for our staff by giving generously to a Holiday Fund to be shared by Jane, Byron, Sarah, and Brad. You can give checks or cash directly to me or place an envelope in the moderator’s mailbox in the church office. Checks should be made out First Church with ‘Staff’ in the memo line. Thank you to our wonderful staff, and to all of you for your generosity!”

**Christmas Eve cookies/cocoa hour.** Linda Lincoln is organizing again this year. She is looking for donations of easily handled treats (that do not need utensils). Please bring your donations to church on Dec. 22, or drop them off at her house earlier if need be ([hellolindalincoln@gmail.com](mailto:hellolindalincoln@gmail.com)). We are also looking for people to clean up If you can help, please let Jane know.