



Spring Creek United Church of Christ

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

*We are an Open and Affirming, God-is still-speaking Congregation.
We embrace our diversity to make a divine difference together.
Wherever you are on life's journey, there is a place of welcome for you here.*

1st Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024

*(Please stand as you are comfortable, at the places marked *)*

Meditation: "Savior of the Nations Come"-J.S. Bach

Musician

Welcome

Pastor David

*Hymn: NCH 116, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

*Call to Worship: (adapted from Psalm 25:1-10)

Worship Leader/People

**Come, let us lift up our soul
For we trust in our God.**

**May we know the ways of the Lord.
And learn the Lord's paths.**

**For the Lord leads us in truth
And teaches us the way of salvation.**

**For all the paths of the Lord
Are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Prelude: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"-Praetorius

Musician

***Gathering Prayer**

Worship Leader/People

We gather together, eager to listen and discern your Word, ready to learn from the stories of our faith. Prepared to grow from the lessons learned. Humbly, we offer our hearts and hands to serve you with love. Amen

Advent Candle-lighting: Hope

Reading: Isaiah 2:2-5

Worship Leader

Light the Candle of Hope (purple): *This is the candle of hope.*

Candle-lighters

During Advent, consider:

What gives you hope?

What challenges your hope?

How does the hope of Jesus Christ's birth change your perspective on life?

Let us pray: May we become people of empowering Hope. Come, Lord Jesus!

*Hymn NCH 461, *Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

***Confession**

Worship Leader/People

O God, we confess

We too often look down at our feet,

One foot in front of another

Without seeing the path,

Ignoring the signs of suffering along the way.

Forgive us, O God.

Help us to be alert to the signs

That your kingdom is near.

May your steadfast love and grace

Be an eternal source of hope.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Pastor David

Lord's Prayer

Congregation

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.

*Hymn: NCH 128, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, verses 1, 2, and 4..

Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Worship Leader

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”^[a]

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon: “West of the Windy City”

Pastor David

*Hymn: NCH 611, *O Day of God, Draw Near*, all verses.

Offering: Today’s loose offering will be for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

Offertory: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” -Thomerson

Musician

Offertory Response

(tune of Old Hundredth)

Congregation

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor David

Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see insert.

Announcements	Worship Leader
Lighting Candles for Peace	Pastor David
Benediction	Pastor David
Postlude: "Fantasia on 'Forest Green" -English Traditional/Smith (arr.)	Musician

NCH New Century Hymnal

Pastor: David Sheridan
Musician: Tom Stein
Worship Leader: Colleen McDonald
Hymn Leader: Deb Floor

Production: Bob Tissot & Josh Hill
Ushers: Wyant Family
Greeter: Jerry Brickey

Prayer Requests

- We pray for **Ron Mertz and his wife Nancie**. Ron has been diagnosed with the most acute form of leukemia. Ron has been discharged from UW-Madison, and returned home for some rest. Ron will not likely receive a bone marrow transplant. We pray now for a miracle.
- We pray for **two friends of Jean Klemme, Ann and Jane**. Ann and her husband Bob were college friends, and **Ann** is in Hospice after a long struggle with cancer. **Jane**, who was a colleague, died after a quick illness.
- We give thanks with **Ewald Weiss and Jean Klemme** and share their joy for son **Christopher Weiss and Sarah** at the celebration of their starting their journey as husband and wife on 11/24.
- We give thanks that **Jean Klemme and Ewald Weiss, Jean's mother Julia, her son Ben and Ewald's son Danny** celebrate birthdays and will enjoy the Macy's parade in New York City.
- We give thanks for **Mike Grace's** sister-in-law, **Nancy**, who had successful surgery for tongue cancer. She is now cancer-free after additional treatment.
- We give thanks for **Sam Wyant's mother, Becky Wyant**, who has been released from UW-Madison, where she had corrective surgery after an injury to her esophagus. Becky is now home with Sam and Janna and their children.
- We pray for **Brent Schultz** and his **wife Liz**. Brent has been suffering from complications of Parkinson's Disease and cardiac issues. He had tests and treatment at the Mayo Clinic and is doing very well right now. He also had a procedure for a spinal fracture which was successful.
- We pray for **John Gerrond's nephew, Todd**, who has been diagnosed with cancer. His mother, **Susan**, earlier this year had open heart surgery and has recovered.

- We pray for **Amanda Janitzky's mother, Varina Simmons**, who needs to have all of her teeth removed.
- We pray for **Amanda Janitzky's friend, Amy**, who is only 39 and had a stroke but has recovered.
- We pray for **Sarah**, daughter of **Carol Gerrond's brother, Bob**. **Sarah** has started treatment for breast cancer.
- We pray for **Mephisto's** friend **Keaton**, who may lose his sight. Pray that his body will work well with his medication.
- We pray for **Pascual and Mephisto's mother, Reyna**, whose chronic condition is no longer responding to medication.
- We pray for **Carol Gerrond's** brother, **Bob Miller**, who had surgery for an aneurism on the brain and is recovering.
- We pray for **Phil Adkins**, who continues to suffer with cardiovascular problems, with episodes of severe pain.
- We pray for **Barb Mugavero's son David**, who had successful triple bypass surgery and is recovering at home.
- We pray for **Terry White's brother, Ron**, who is being treated for cancer.
- We pray for **Liz & Brent Schultz's friend** & long-time neighbor with ALS, **Shawn**, who entered hospice care, and for his wife and six kids and their families.
- We pray for **Todd**, brother-in-law of Pastor David and Leslie, who continues cancer treatment.



**No Anniversaries
No Birthdays**

Pastor David's Office Hours -- Wednesdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
or call the office for an appointment.

Emergency: 815/299-8263

Church Office hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

815/877-2576

Attendance

11/10-45

11/17-57

11/24-55