

Advent 1, December 1

Introduction – Wendy Johnson

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 --Nancy Pitzen

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lighting of the Advent Candles Anderson Family

We light this first Advent candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. This is the candle of hope. (light the candle) We abide in the hope of God's love and blessings. We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations 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 anymore. As we light this candle, we welcome a vision of Christ's love and justice coming to heal the world. We dare to see a future in which peace is shared by all people, and God's love is the rule that governs all people's heart. We dream of a day in which the promises that have been made by God are fulfilled and all live in peace.

Let us Pray:

Almighty God, during the Advent season may we be reminded of your promise of hope, not just for ourselves, but for all the world. Chase away the darkness that has filled so many hearts with fear and despair. Bring peace to our hearts and teach us how to then share that peace with everyone we meet. In the name of Christ, our soon coming king we pray. Amen.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Jaeda R., violin

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John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore

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Tag: Pete Wills