

Welcome to
Sunriver Christian
Fellowship

An Ecumenical Ministry Sponsored by the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches



The Holy Eucharist
In Celebration of
The First Sunday
Of Advent

December 1, 2024
10 a.m.

Order of Service
The First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

Pastor Kally Elliott, *Celebrant*

Don Udlock, *Reader*

Mitzi Putney & Donna Warner *Keyboardists*, Gina Rosbrook, *Song Leader*

Please silence all cell phones.

Bells *The ringing of the bells calls us to worship and quiets our minds and voices.*

Welcome & Announcements

Kally

Advent Song

Advent's Holy Light arr. J. Raney

Choir

Advent Candle Lighting: Candle of Hope

Don

Reader: In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

All: **Let us begin with the good news!**
Let us begin by trusting that we are a
blessing, loved by a gracious God.
Let us begin with music and singing!
Let us begin with warmth and welcome.
Let us begin with hope.

Reader: Yes, let us begin with hope.
Today we light the candle of hope to
shine a light in a worn and weary world.

All: **May this be our foundation.**
May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.

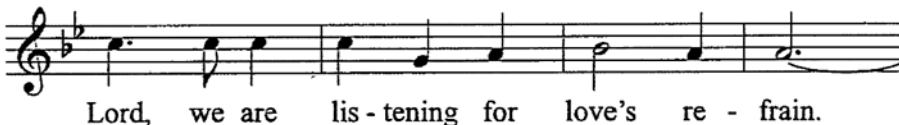
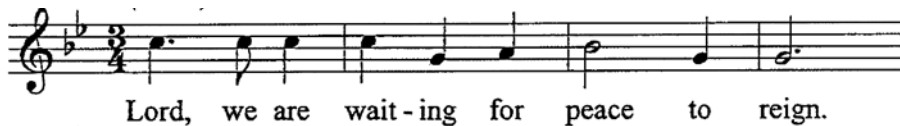
Reader: May hope flow forth from here.

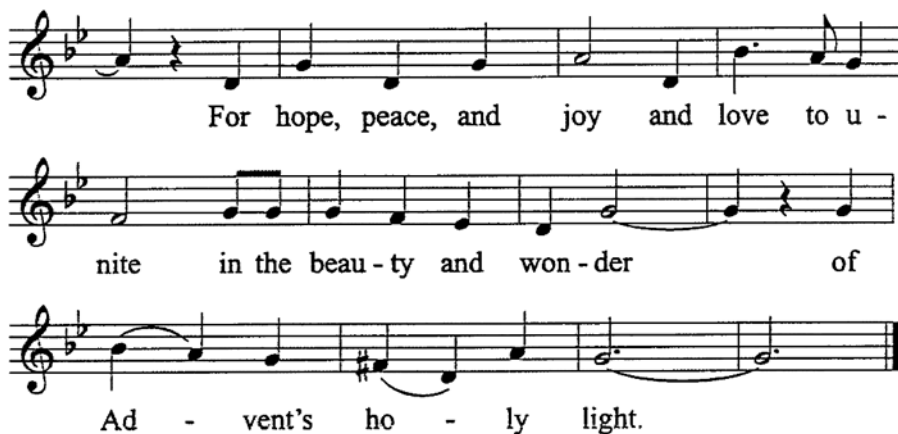
Reader will light the Hope candle.

Advent Song

Advent's Holy Light

Choir & congregation





Call to Worship

Inspired by Isaiah 43: 1-4 and Luke 1:26-29.

Celebrant: God says,

All: **"Do not be afraid."**

Celebrant: God says,

All: **"I have called you by name."**

Celebrant: God says,

All: **"I will be with you."**

Celebrant: God says,

All: **You are precious and honored in my sight."**

Celebrant: At the beginning of this season,

All: **at the start of this week,**

at the top of this hour,

may we wrap ourselves in these words.

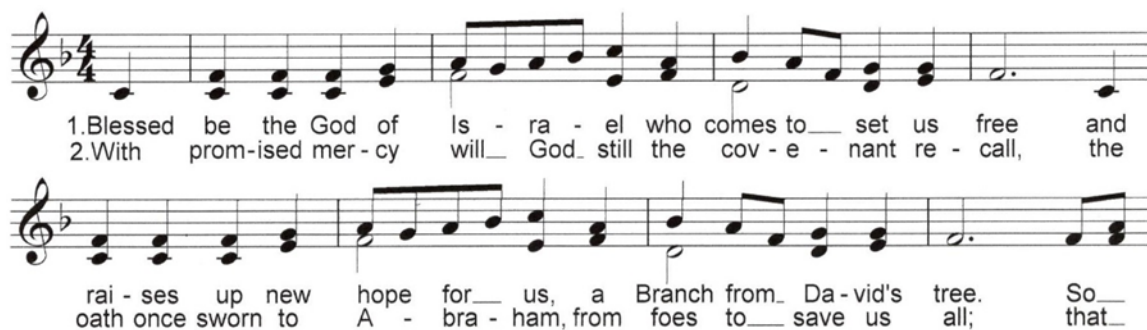
Celebrant: May we begin again.

All: **Let us worship our Holy God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel ELW #250, OneLicense.net, A-74030





Please be seated.

Call to Confession

Celebrant In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?"

Every time we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me?

Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck.

Prayer of Confession:

All: **Affirming God,
Your first words to creation were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary.
You spoke belonging through Christ.
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.
Forgive us for forgetting this truth.
Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick
instead of yours.
We believe.
Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Celebrant: I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are.
I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God.

I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing.

However, in case it has been a while,
hear these words from Isaiah:

God says,

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name.

You are mine."

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

All: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

Passing of the Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated.

Scripture Readings

Don

A Reading from Isaiah 43:1-3

But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospels.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 1:26-49

All: Glory to you, :Lord Christ.

Reader: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the

Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ

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Please be seated.

Musical Reflection

My Soul Gives Glory M.L. Bringle & M. Joncas

Gina


Sermon

Kally

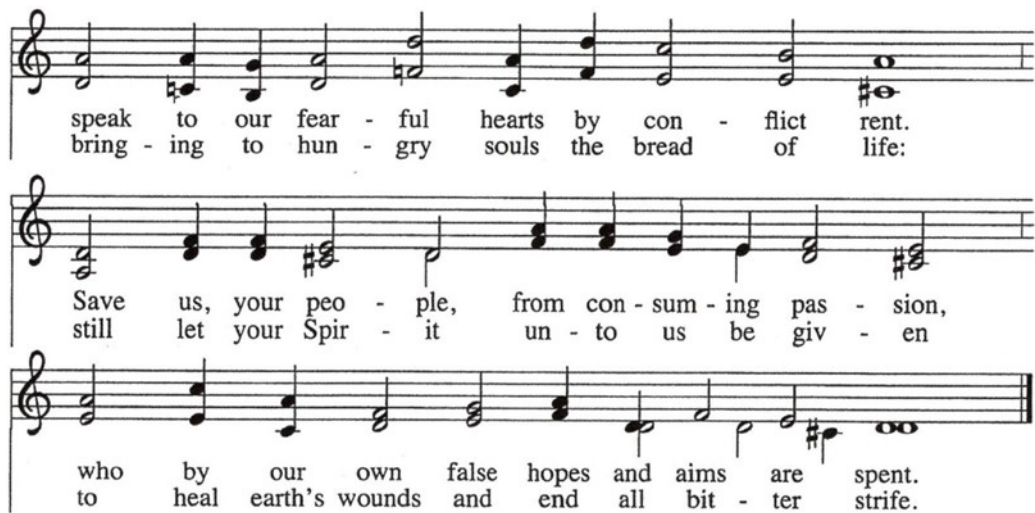
Please stand as you are able.

Sermon Response Hymn

Hope of the World ACS #1085, OneLicense.net



1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,



Affirmation of Faith

**All: We believe in a blessing God
who calls us Beloved.
We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary,
and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman,
the poor in spirit,
the children,
the crowds,
the Jews,
the Gentiles,
the faithful and the doubting.
So in faith,
we trust that God's blessing,
Like ripples on the water,
forever reaches toward us.
And with wild hope,
we believe
that because of this blessing,
we are covered in love.
Thanks be to God!
Amen**

Offertory

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus arr. L. Smith

Mitzi & Donna

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Response

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Please be seated.

Invitation to the Table:

Celebrant: Friends, Advent is a season of waiting.

We wait for Christ to be born.

We wait for the feeling that love is near.

We wait for God's promised day.

Advent is a season of waiting.

And while we humans are good at many things, waiting is not high on that list.

We are an impatient and anxious bunch, eager for the hope of what comes next.

Maybe that's why this Table is such a gift.

For when we come to this Table, for just a moment, the waiting stops.

When we come to this Table, for just a moment, we get a glimpse of God's promised day.

We get a glimpse of a world where all are fed and all are welcomed.

And for just a moment we can believe the angels when they say,

"Be not afraid."

For just a moment, Mary's words tumble through our minds—

words of justice and hope, words like, "the hungry have been filled" and "the humble have been lifted."

So come to this Table.

Come catch a glimpse of what could be.

Come end your waiting, for love is hovering close.

This is what it's all about.

God is all around us.

So come. This good news is for you.

All are welcome here

Prayer of the People and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: God of blessings,

Once again, we find ourselves standing at the beginning of the month,
at the beginning of this Advent season,
at the beginning of this new day,
bringing our hearts to you.

All: **Meet us here, gracious God.**

Hear our prayers and offer your words of blessing.

Celebrant: To start, we bring you prayers of deep gratitude.

We say thank you for the people who, like the angel Gabriel, help us see you in our midst. Thank you for faith mentors, for friends that greet us with hugs and smiles at

church, for the saints who have gone before us, for Sunday school teachers and youth advisors.

All: Thank you for these saints and the ways they always point us toward you. Pour out your blessings on them.

Celebrant: Similarly, we give you thanks for the people who, like Mary, have shown us what it looks like to trust our belovedness.

All: Thank you for the folks in our lives who have acted with fierce bravery, trusting their call and your words of blessing. Their faith and conviction inspires our own.

Celebrant: In addition to prayers of gratitude, we also offer prayers for guidance. For even though we count this day as a new beginning, the words and messages of the past cling to us like quicksand.

All: Startle us with a new perspective; one of hope.

Celebrant: Blessing God, today we lift up those of us who have ever been told that we are unworthy or are not enough by this demanding society.

All: We pray for those of us who have ever been discouraged from chasing a dream or have been made to feel small.

Celebrant: We pray for those of us who know insecurity and dance with self-doubt. We pray for all who hear your words of blessing and want to respond, “How can this be?”

All: Let this day be a new beginning, Creator God.

Erase our memories of self-doubt.

Erase the “How can this be?” questions from our minds.

**Erase our insecurities and fears,
and in their place, fill our hearts with trust.**

Fill our spirits with conviction.

Fill our minds with the knowledge that, like Mary, we are made in your image.

Like Mary, we are good.

Celebrant: This morning we pray especially for Hillary Y., Sharon B., Rich D., Roger S., Diannne, Amanda, Michael, Kasey, & Britton C., Bruce G., Barbara V., Steven G., Curtis S., Brenda C., Amy R., Judy S., Tina S., Joseph H., Robert M., Melissa J., Clair S., Dave & Katie R., Sheree, Jan M., Karin B., Andy E., Benjamin C., Carol D., Thomas W., Scott J., Lauren B., Al K., Carol F., Jennie F., Erik E., Lynne E., Betsy M., Amber F., Olivia L., and Aedan V.

Celebrant: God of new beginnings,

As we prepare to come to this Table, pour out your spirit in this room.

Allow this meal to feel like a new beginning.

Allow us to experience welcome here.

Allow for all to be fed here.

Allow for all to sense your presence here.

And may these experiences jumpstart our faith, hope, and love in new ways.

With hope we gather. With hope we begin again.

Hear us now as we pray as your Son taught us, saying,

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup:

Prayer after Communion

**All: Nourishing God,
Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.
We think the world is too far gone.
We think we have made too many mistakes.
We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.
But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom.
We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed.
And just like that, we have hope.
Just like that, we begin again.
Thank you for the gift of this fresh start.
Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.
Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too
late to build your kingdom here.
We are grateful.**

Blessing

***Celebrant:* As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.
May you have the courage to hold onto hope, the compassion to do the good that is
yours to do,
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.
So start here.
Start now.
Start with love and begin again.
In the name of Christ,
our new beginning,
Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

Closing Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus FOG #168, In Public Domain

1. Come, Thóu long ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and
peo - ple free. From our fears and sins re - lease us,
yet a King. Born to reign in us for - ev - er,
let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and
now Thy gra - cious King - dom bring. By Thine own e -
con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art.
ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone.
Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion,
By Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it
joy of ev - 'ry long glo - ing heart.
raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go now in peace.

All: **Alleluia!**

Coffee is served today by Sharon Krueger & Jann Phares.

Celebrant next week: Pastor Kally Elliott; **Preacher next week:** Rev. Roy Green

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUEST BOOK

We would love it if our guests would sign the guest book with your full mailing address. It is located in the lobby on the counter by the coffee bar.

WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS.

Let's keep wearing our name tags to help Kally and her family learn people's names.

RECEPTION FOR ROB

Please join us for a reception in honor of Pastor Rob to celebrate his many years of service to SCF. The dessert reception will be December 15th after church in the Fellowship Hall.

SCF MANAGING BOARD: Note change of date.

The SCF Managing Board meets monthly, normally on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at SCF, 1:30 p.m. Because of Christmas, the next meeting is on Tuesday, Dec. 17. All are welcome to attend.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

December 8	Advent Two, Pastor Kally Elliott, Celebrant; Rev. Roy Green, Preacher
December 8	Christmas Music, "Catch the Spirit!", 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
December 15	Advent Three, Pastor Kally
December 15	Reception for Rob Pearson, after church service
December 18	"Blue Christmas" service, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
December 22	Advent Four, Pastor Kally
December 24	Christmas Eve Family Service at 3:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Traditional Service at 6:00 p.m., Pastor Kally
December 29	Pastor Rob

CATCH THE SPIRIT!

To set a festive tone for the Christmas season, the SCF Bells and Choir invite you to a holiday musical program – ***Catch the Spirit!*** - **Sunday December 8th, 2 pm in the SCF sanctuary.**

The Sunriver Bells, SCF Choir, Sing-a-longs, Boom-wackers, Solos, and More!

There is no charge but please bring a can or two of food that can be contributed towards the Sunriver Community Christmas Sharing . Invite a friend. . . or two!

"BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE Wednesday, December 18th, 12:00 p.m., SCF Sanctuary, .

If you're finding the holiday season challenging, or if joy feels elusive this year, we invite you to our Blue Christmas Service. This gathering offers a space where we can come together in honesty and mutual support. We'll acknowledge that life can be difficult, especially during the holidays, and find strength in shared experiences. This service welcomes everyone. We encourage you to join us as you are, with whatever emotions or questions you may carry. Remember, whatever you're going through, you don't have to face it alone. We're here to support one another through both the bright and darker moments of life.

HELP NEEDED

Sunriver Christian Fellowship has hosted two blood drives this fall allowing us to donate over 40 pints of blood to those in need. It has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to not only help our neighbors, but to meet new acquaintances as well.

Our next blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 14, 2025. We are looking for one or two individuals who would be willing to oversee the scheduling and management of future drives. The time commitment involved is minimal and easily shared between two people.

Please let Jenny Long (usna03@gmail.com) or Barb Purcell (bapw59@gmail.com) know if you would consider stepping up in this manner. Thank you."

PASTOR KALLY'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Kally's schedule will be to work from home on Mondays, be at the church or visiting people in the community on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and take Fridays off.

She is available whenever people want to make an appointment. They can email or call her, and she will make it happen. See box below for email and phone number.

Pastor Kally Elliott, Senior Pastor

541-593-1183 • kelliott@sunriverchristianfellowship.org

Dr. Robert Pearson, Music Director • 541-593-1183 • rpearson@sunriverchristianfellowship.org

Joan Lewis, SCF Office Manager • 541-593-1183 • officemanager@sunriverchristianfellowship.org

Ministers: The Congregation

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