

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all goodness, as we walk in the light of your love, we are blessed by the abundance of your gifts. You give us the beauty of nature, nourishment for our bodies, and communities to love and sustain us. Out of the abundance we have already received, we offer our gifts and our lives. May they provide hope for all who experience darkness and despair locally and globally. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Ashley and Jeremy Donnelly, Peggy Dwyer, Mary Mattke, Shernett Barrett

†HYMN 138

[\*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn\*](#)

REJOICE, REJOICE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

*Rejoice*

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE

*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

Jason D. Payne

Edward Clark, Organist

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**First Sunday of Advent & New Member Sunday**

November 30, 2025  
10 o'clock

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*Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor*  
*Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts*  
*Amanda Bethune, Director of Faith Formation*

PRELUDE

Four Settings of *Comfort, Comfort You My People*  
By Charles Callahan; Paul Manz; Michael Burkhardt; and David Dahl  
Edward Clark, Organist

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Rachael Edlund and Brad Currier

One: During the season of Advent, we anticipate Emmanuel – God with us. We watch and wait, trusting that God has promised salvation to all who walk in the light.

All: **This morning, we kindle the first candle to remind us that HOPE is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without words, and never stops at all.**

[The congregation will pause to allow time for candle lighting.]

UNISON PRAYER

Faithful God, out of darkness and hopelessness you bring light and new possibilities. Rekindle hope within us and around us. Remind us to keep alert to the advent of Christ’s coming. Amen.

RESPONSE (HYMN 128)

[One Candle Is Lit \(verse 1\)](#)

CRADLE SONG

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

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†CALL TO WORSHIP

Kelly Munro

One: Let us awaken to the season of anticipation.

Many: **God offers hope right here and right now.**

One: Let us look for the divine light that dwells within us.

Many: **We are willing to live in fellowship with God and with one another.**

One: How good it is to gather in this holy household.

Many: **God draws us together for this time of worship.**

†HYMN 129

[Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates](#)

TRURO

† Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

†OPENING PRAYER

Everlasting God, teach us what it means to be ready to receive your presence. Show us how to prepare our hearts for the arrival of the Christ child. Help us walk in your ways and guide us along the path which leads to your love. This we ask in your holy name. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ANTHEM

*The Holly and the Ivy*

English Traditional

The First Church Choir, Liz Oman-Wilfrid, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[1 John 1:5-8 \(NT p. 289-290\)](#)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 134)

[Emmanuel, Emmanuel](#)

McGEE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

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SERMON

*The Light We Carry*

Janice Olson

HYMN 122

[Comfort, Comfort You My People](#)

GENEVA

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Henry Ley

The First Church Choir, Michael Loveland, director

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!