

# Advent

At the First Church in Albany



Sunday, November 22, 2020  
10am Drive-in Service

Join us for this season of expectation!

First Church in Albany

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)

CENTER US IN THE HOPE  
OF AN ADVENT PROMISE,  
AS YOU REVEAL YOUR  
WORD FOR US THIS DAY.

**Prelude**

***Schubler Chorale:***  
***Zion hears the watchman singing***  
*Christ Vettel, tenor*

*J.S. Bach*

Zion hears the watchmen's voices,  
With gladness all her heart is springing.  
She eager wakes to greet the day.  
See her Lord from heaven descending,  
With grace, with truth and power unending.  
Her Day Star Dawns with brightest ray.  
Oh come, Thou blessed One, Lord Jesus God's own Son. Hosiana!  
We follow there the feast to share and taste the joys beyond compare.

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

One: From ages past, for years to come

**All: We wait on your revelation**

One: Know that no one has heard, no ear perceived

**All: No Eye has seen what you have prepared for your people.**

One: The unexpected awaits us and we proclaim anew

**All: Light will come to our darkness, a light for all your people.**

**Invocation**

Turn us from darkness toward your light,  
Wake us from complacency to attentiveness.  
Move us from isolation and loneliness  
Toward the warmth of worshipping together.  
Center us in the hope of an advent promise,  
As you reveal your word  
For us this day.

**Music**

**Biblical Song #1: Clouds and Darkness**

*Antonin Dvorak*

*Peter Subers, baritone*

*Clouds and darkness are round about him:  
righteousness and judgement are the habitation of his throne.  
A fire goes before him, and burns up his enemies round about.  
His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.  
The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord,  
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.  
The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.*

**Lighting of the Candle**

- In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way...  
**our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey.**  
We reach out, desperate  
for comfort  
for balance  
for the familiar  
for hope
- In the darkest times,  
Even a faltering light can be just enough;  
The flame flickers, twinkles, dances—and it is dazzling!  
**For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.**
- *~Candle is lit~*
- However impossible it seems,  
God is present wherever we may be,  
and blessed is the one who perseveres in prayer.
- **Come, O come, Emmanuel, God with us, and we will rejoice.**

**Music****Anthem Advent**  
*The Choir of First Church**John Brooks*

I look from afar: And lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth.  
Go ye out to meet him and say:  
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?  
High and low, rich and poor, one with another,  
Go ye out to meet him and say:  
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,  
Tell us, art thou he that should come?  
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
I look from afar:...

*Ezekiel 38:9; Matthew 25:6, Lue 7:19; 1 Samuel 19:17, Psalms 49:2, 80:1*

**Assurance**

We wait patiently for the Light of the World to come once again.  
Light for our darkness, hope for our despair,  
the God who reigns from everlasting to everlasting  
brings us the good news once again: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven,  
Alleluia and Amen.

*Today's prayers & Call to Worship are by Cathy Kolwey*

**Scripture****Mark 13:24-37**

<sup>24</sup>”But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will no give its light,  
<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>”From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>”But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**Sermon**

**After the Suffering**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Josh Bliss

**Music**

***Come thou long expected Jesus***

**Benediction**