

Welcome
to
Kirkwood!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Opening Hymn

“Blessed Be The Name”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Wait expectantly for our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep us strong until the end, on the day of the Lord.

People: It is God in person, who called us to share in the life of his son Jesus, and who helps us keep faith.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Hope”

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light
candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with
prayer. We light this candle in hope.

[Light the first candle.]

Hear God's promise of hope from

Jeremiah 33:14-16:

The days are surely coming, says the

Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I

made to the house of Israel and the

house of Judah.

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved and
Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is
the name by which it will be called: “The
Lord is our righteousness.”

Let us pray:

Faithful God, out of death you bring life.

Renew us in hope, that we may be alert

to the burgeoning of Christ's advent

among us. God of promise, God of hope,

into our darkness come. Amen.

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

People: Lord, we confess that we become confused. Not about who you are, but about who we are. You allow us enough room to get ourselves into trouble.

Too often, we are more like people who claim no affinity to you, than people who claim to be yours. Forgive our tendency to ignore our responsibilities. We trust in you still and in your son Jesus.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, hear the good news!

God has given you grace and peace in
Christ Jesus

**People: and enriched us with many
good gifts.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

A Time for Children

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 122:1-9

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to

the house of the Lord!”

Our feet are standing within

your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem - built as a city that

is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name
of the Lord.

For there the thrones for
judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house
of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls,

and security within your towers.”

For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, “Peace be within you.”

For the sake of the house of

the Lord our God,

I will seek your good.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

“Who Knew?”

Middle Hymn

“You’ll Come”

Affirmation of Faith

(Apostles' Creed)

**I BELIEVE in God the Father, Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ,
his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on

the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge

the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Giving Thanks to God
with Our Tithes and
Offerings**

Offertory Song

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom
all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures
here below;**

**Praise God above,
ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son
and Holy Ghost.**

Amen.

(repeat Amen 6 times)

Prayer of Dedication

People: Lord of the church, you are not enriched by our gifts but you enable us to share our talents for the enrichment of our congregation and our community. We present ourselves to be useful to each other and to you. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Indescribable”

Charge and Blessing

