

## UNITE IN LOVE

### Pre-service Music

### Welcome

### Prelude

“Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling”

JS Bach

#### \*Call to Worship

One: The power of dreams lies in waking up. For when we close our eyes,

**ALL: We can see a better world.**

One: When we close our eyes,

**ALL: We can dream a better dream.**

One: But when we open our eyes,

**ALL: We begin the work of faith.**

One: The power of worship is the same. When we enter this space,

**ALL: We can see a better world.**

One: When we enter this space,

**ALL: We dream a better dream.**

One: But when we leave this space,

**ALL: We begin the work of faith.**

One: So come in. Dream your dream.

**ALL: Find hope here.**

One: For in an hour,

**ALL: We will begin the work of faith.**

One: Let it be so.

### \*Gathering Hymn #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*all verses*

### Advent Candle Lighting

*The Candle of Hope*

### Anthem

“Advent Celebration”

Chancel Choir

by Jon Paige

## GROW IN FAITH

**Time for Wonder** *children are invited forward*

**We Bless Each Other** Kids: God be with you as you stay. Congregation: God be with you as you go.

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

### Reflection on the Word

**\*The Word in Song**

“God, You Alone Know What You’ve Planned”  
Using tune for #123 (It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

*all verses*

God, you alone know what you've planned For earth and sky and sea.  
Creation waits your loving hand To bring in what will be.  
When things we trust in shift and shake And sorrows multiply,  
We hear you calling, "Keep awake! Redemption is close by!"

O Christ, you taught us, "Watch the trees As seasons change each year,  
For when they bud and grow new leaves You know that summer's near."  
May we look round this changing earth And see with faith-filled eyes  
Your signs of newness, life and birth That witness to the wise.

Though heav'n and earth will pass away, Your word will still be true.  
O Son of Man, on that great day, We'll be secure in you.  
For at the close of history When all that's past shall end,  
The one who judges us will be No stranger, but a friend.

So by your Spirit may we share The life you're bringing forth:  
May we seek justice, end despair, And work to heal the earth.  
For there's a new day coming near With no more death or pain;  
Till then, we'll seek to serve you here And welcome in your reign.

**Invitation to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Original Dreamer,**  
**Over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world.**  
**We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.**  
**We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.**  
**We hear your dream for community and hope.**  
**We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes.**  
**We continue to live with the curtains drawn,**  
**the covers pulled tight,**  
**eyes shut to the realities of the world.**  
**Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights.**  
**Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world.**

**Quiet Reflection**

**Assurance of Grace**

One: God's love dries our tears; God's forgiveness picks us up; God's peace embraces us.  
**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

**Communion Hymn #501**

“Feed Us, Lord”

**Invitation to the Table**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*[celebrant continues]*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**Sharing the Meal**

One: The bread of heaven. **ALL: We are one in the bread we share.** *[all partake of the bread]*

One: The cup of salvation. **ALL: We are one in the cup we share.** *[all partake of the cup]*

**Prayer**

**REACH OUT TO OTHERS**

**Offering Invitation & Dedication**

**Our Life Together**

**\*Sending Hymn #357**

“The Days Are Surely Coming”

**Blessing & Charge**

**Postlude**

“Behold, A Rose Breaks Into Bloom”

Johannes Brahms