

Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Prelude In the Bleak Midwinter

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Advent Candle Lighting Hope

Can you be homesick for something you've never known?

We are homesick for a world where all are fed, where laughter is contagious, where the doors are wide open.

We are homesick for a world with more bridges than walls, where trees grow tall and rivers run clear.

We are homesick for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies, in their churches, in their homes.

We long for that world.

We hope for that world.

So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait. May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

We are homesick, but we are on our way. Let us worship God.

***Hymn** Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates # 93

*Call to Confession

***Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

In a weary world when so many are tired and tired of being tired, we struggle to remember that you are God yesterday, today, and forever. And in this season, you are doing a new thing.

Forgive us for singing the same old song of cynicism. Forgive us for keeping quiet instead of speaking truth, for standing back instead of stepping up. Strengthen our hearts in holiness that we would increase and abound in love for one another and all of your creation. In the name of the One who is to come again, we pray, amen.

(Silent time for your reflection and personal confessions)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Hymn of Reflection We Wait in Hope See Insert

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson Psalm 25:1-10 p. 475, OT

Word and Wonder - A Time for Children

Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16 p. 694, OT

Sermon "The Lord Gives Justice" Rev. Niki Atkinson

Our Joyful Response - Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Advent Alleluia Cross Roads' Choir

*Congregational Response -

While We Are Waiting, Come #92, v. 1

*Prayer of Gratitude for God's Abundance

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

[from inclusive language version of The Confession of 1967]

The risen Christ is the savior of all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as God's reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations. The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people. His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God's final victory over the power of sin and death. To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal; to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.

Pastoral Prayer and the 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.

***Hymn** O Come, O Come Emmanuel # 88, v. 1, 5

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude O Holy Night

What's Happening at Cross Roads?

Blessings Box - As we enter into the season of colder temperatures, please remember to put only dry non-perishable food items in the Blessings Box. All canned goods and jarred goods must be kept indoors. Thank you!

Lighthouse Food Pantry donations

12/05 - Toilet Paper; 12/12 - Ramen Noodles; 12/19 - Clorox Wipes; 12/26 - Hand Soap

Prayer Family of the Week:

During Advent (the start of the church seasonal year), we have started praying for a different family of our congregation each week.

This week's family: **George and Suzanne Altman**

Also pray for: Alex & Doris G. Eleanor B., Dan A., Colton and family, Cullin S., our troops, frontline workers, healthcare workers, and all those impacted by COVID.

If you have a prayer concern or praise, please email us at prayer@crossroadsgibsonia.org or call Pastor Niki in the church office. Please specify if you would like it kept private or shared in our prayer concerns. Thank you.

Advent is here! We started a new series in our Adult Sunday School class today: an Advent series focused on the beloved story, "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe," by C.S. Lewis. (Four adventurers step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.) It is recommended that you have read the book or seen the movie (but not required, as we'll watch some movie clips in class.) Join us in the Fellowship Area on Sundays at 9 AM through Advent.

Poinsettia Order Forms are available. Return them to Betsy Lyons (with payment) by next Sunday, 12/5! Thank you.

Join us for other church activities, both in-person and virtually!

Today, November 28

9:00 am Adult Sunday School, Fellowship Area
10:00 am Worship, in-person in the Sanctuary, streaming online via YouTube
11:00 am Deacons Meeting
4:00 pm Hanging of the Greens
5:30 pm Dinner
6:30 pm Caroling and Christmas Tree Lighting

Monday, November 29

Church Office will be closed

Thursday, December 2

6:30 PM Hand Bell Rehearsal
7:15 PM Choir Practice

Sunday, December 5

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School, Fellowship Area
10:00 AM Worship, in-person in the Sanctuary, streaming online via YouTube
11:00 AM Worship Committee

For more info and other events, visit www.crossroadsgibsonia.org or follow us on Facebook!

2021 Financials [updated monthly]:

October Operating Income:	\$ 24,331.44
October Operating Expenses:	\$ 13,672.38
YTD Operating Income:	\$ 134,712.04
YTD Operating Expenses:	\$ 141,072.91
Current (Deficit) :	\$ (6,360.87)