

**First Sunday in Advent, November 28th, 2016**

**Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

**Priest:** Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ.

He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;

he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;

he is the Saviour of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.

Bless us and our advent wreath

May the light that shines forth from them illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;

may the light that shines forth from them illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World. **Amen.** *(written by Bosco Peters, 2008)*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

(Led by Confirmation candidate Sarah Pretty and Family)

**Reader:** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

**Reader:** Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new name for God.

**People:** Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.

**Reader:** On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

(Light a purple candle.)

**Hymn: "A Candle is Burning,"**

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

**(readers return to your seats)**

(“A Candle is Burning” is by Sandra Dean, 1986.)