

Live from St. John's Chapel – A Thursday Evening Prayer Service

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The days are shorter and darkness comes early to our lives.

**People: Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.**

Leader: Come, seek the Lord. Place your hope in God's mercy and love.

**People: Lord, we seek your presence among us.**

Leader: Look closely! God is making us ready.

**People: Brighten our Spirits this day, and help us to receive your Good News.  
AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

**All: We can hardly believe it, Lord. The Advent season is upon us. We usually translate that into the buying season in preparation for THE BIG DAY. But when we place our hope in the tinsel, wrappings, tape and boxes, we forget the most glorious gift of all, the gift of God's absolute love. Open our eyes, our hearts, our spirits today to behold God's gracious love for us in the fulfillment of all God's promises. For we ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray . . .**

*The Lord's Prayer*

**All: 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.**

**Lighting the Advent Candle**

Leader: Today we light one candle - the Candle called HOPE, as a reminder that God's promises are true.

**People: We place our hope in God.**

Leader: We place our lives in God's care.

**People: Come, all is ready. Let the light of this one candle, called HOPE, bring  
brightness to your spirits.**

[The first Advent Candle is lighted]

**Prayer Service Meditation – *When Leftovers Don't Get Old*, by Rev. Mark Katrick**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Benediction**

Leader: God's presence and promises are real. Go now into God's world, trusting in God's love and placing your hope in God. Go in peace. AMEN.