

Old Orchard Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2013 – 10:15–11:50 a.m.

Please see print copy for art work.

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The catastrophe in Eden
(woodcut by Hans Holbein the Younger, Strasbourg, France [1529])



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Cover art: medieval manuscript of the Agnus Dei: “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.”

There are three comings of our Lord:

The first in the flesh.
The second in the soul.
The third in the judgment.

The first coming was humble and hidden;
The second is mysterious and full of love.
The third will be majestic and terrible.

In his first, a lamb;
In his third, a lion;
In the one between the two,
The tenderest of friends.

Peter of Blois, France, 12th century

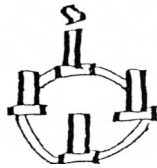
Celebrating the First Coming of Jesus Christ: In the Flesh

See how great the love of the Father
that in the ripeness of time
He should send the Son.

See how tender the love of the Son
that in the fragileness of infancy
he should even come.

See our humanness exalted
as God Himself takes flesh;
See our unholiness purified
as God takes flesh to die.

Blessed be our Savior,
Humble and hidden in his First Coming.
Blessed be the promised Lamb who was slain,
For in His Death we live. Alleluia!



Today's Scripture

Old Testament Prophecy: Isaiah 40:1-11

Gospel Reading: John 1:19-31

Miniseries

Autonomy in the City of Man or Purity in the Kingdom of God

“The Ministry of John the Baptist and the Scandal of Antipas and Herodias”

Mark 6:14-29

Ron Lutjens, lead pastor, preaching



The Babe of Bethlehem

Ye nations all, on you I call, come, hear this declaration.
And don't refuse this glorious news of Jesus and salvation.
To royal Jews came first the news of Christ the great Messiah,
As was foretold by prophets old, Isaiah, Jeremiah.

To Abraham the promise came, and to his seed forever,
A light to shine in Isaac's line, by scripture we discover;
Hail, promised morn! the Savior's born, the glorious Mediator—
God's blessed Word made flesh and blood, assumed the human nature.

His parents poor in earthly store, to entertain the stranger,
They found no bed to lay his head, but in the ox's manger:
No royal things, as used by kings, were seen by those that found him,
But in the hay the stranger lay, with swaddling bands around him.

On the same night a glorious light to shepherds there appeared,
Bright angels came in shining flame, they saw and greatly feared.
The angels said, “Be not afraid, although we much alarm you,
We do appear good news to bear, as now we will inform you....

Then with delight they took their flight, and wing'd their way to glory,
The shepherds gazed and were amazed, to hear the pleasing story;
To Bethlehem they quickly came, the glorious news to carry,
And in the stall they found them all, Joseph, the Babe, and Mary.

—William Walker, Sacred Harp song (1835)

