

A Church Is United in “Christ Alone”

ADVENT: A Time to Focus on Jesus

1st Sunday	Purple Candle	Kingship of Jesus
		Isaiah 11:1-10 “Christ Our King”
2nd Sunday	White Candle	Purity of Jesus
3rd Sunday	Red Candle	Forgiveness through Jesus
4th Sunday	Green Candle	New Life through Jesus

Expectations of Unity in this Life:

We can be “One” (John 17:17-24) Only “In Christ”

“...being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. **Ephesians 4:1-6**

One Body	Connected to Jesus as “a body” with diverse members.
One Spirit	Connected to the Holy Spirit as the source of our life.
One Hope	Connected by hope in victory over sin and resurrection.
One Lord	Connected by commitment to obeying Jesus.
One Faith	Connected by trusting Jesus to do what we cannot do.
One Baptism	Connected by a decision to be like Jesus in every way.
One God and Father	Connected as Children of God.

Managing Our Unity in the midst of Our Diversity

- 1. We can find unity in the value of helping all people even when disagreeing on how to do it.**
- 2. We can respect and love each other even when we arrive at differing conclusions about how to manage life.**
(1 Corinthians 8:4-13)
- 3. We must always guard ourselves against placing any trust or hope in anyone other than Jesus Christ.** (John 2:23-25)
- 4. Our trust and hope in Jesus Christ involves a vision for life far better than anything possible before Jesus returns.**
(1 Peter 1:13; Isaiah 11:1-10)

Isaiah 11:1-3 A leader righteous and wise to judge.

Isaiah 11:4-5 A leader committed to helping life’s victims.

Isaiah 11:6-8 A leader committed to healing creation.

Isaiah 11:9 A leader uniting the world under God’s goodness.

Isaiah 11:10 A leader, who is our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Commitment Needed for a United Church

**Christmas is a time to unite around Jesus Christ,
who was born for the purpose of blessing us
and giving us true hope
in a world where hope is absent without Him.**

I Peter 1:3-6