



WHITEHOUSE UMC

...to love, serve, and share Christ

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2020—9:30 AM

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & †OPENING PRAYER

†LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

based on Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8

Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God!" When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

O come, o come, Emmanuel.

†SUNG RESPONSE: *Until Jesus comes, until Jesus come, I'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.*

"Until Jesus Comes" – words & music by Dean McIntyre

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†HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

*Blessed by the God of Israel,
Who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us,
and grants us liberty.*

*Now from the house of David
a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.*

*On prisoners of darkness
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease.*

*The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise
to bring our people peace.*

"Blessed Be the God of Israel" – words by Michael Perry; music by Hal H. Hopson

words © 1973 music © Hope Publishing Co.

CCLI #1550924

†AFFIRMATION

An Affirmation for Advent

by Nathan Nettleton

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

**We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair.**

**Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth,

**brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.**

We believe in the coming reign of God.

**Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.**

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Arr. by David Lantz ©2011 Hal Leonard Corp.

See Amid the Winter's Snow

CLI #1550924

WUMC Chancel Choir

OFFERING MOMENT & †DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" – words by Thomas Ken, adapt. By Gilbert H. Viera;

music from *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, hamr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

CCLI #1550924

†HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206

*I want to walk as a child of the light.**I want to see the brightness of God.**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.**I want to follow Jesus.**I want to look at Jesus.**I want to be with Jesus.**God set the stars to give light to the world.**Clear Sun of Righteousness shine on my path,**When we have run with patience the race,**The star of my life is Jesus.**and show me the way to the Father,**we shall know the joy of Jesus.**Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.**The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.*

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" – music and words by Kathleen Thomerson. © 1970, 1975 Celebration. CCLI #1550924

†SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; ⁶ but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory.

⁷ Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

⁸ For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Waiting...with Israel

Rev. Trey Burns

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and who seek to live in peace with God and with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The voice of one comes crying out in the wilderness... **prepare the way of the Lord.**

A messenger prepares the way, transforming us like the refiner's fire... **calling us to account.**

For the prophets of old have spoken, announcing the breaking open of the dawn... **guiding our feet in the way of peace.**

Merciful God forgive us...

Forgive us when we are quick to point the finger at someone else.

Forgive us when we put our heads down and ignore the cries of injustice.

Forgive us when we presume to understand the complexity of issues that divide and distract the peoples of the land your feet once walked.

Merciful God...

**forgive us, heal us, encourage us and speak through us,
that we may be transformed through the refiner's fire,
and the offerings of our hands and our hearts
may prepare the way for the Christ child to be welcomed among us in peace.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rejoice! You who once lived in darkness – on you a new light is shining and the light of God's glory shall brighten your path. You are healed, loved and forgiven. Be at peace! Live in God's love, and bring hope and justice to all God's people. **Amen.**

†RESPONSE

The Gloria Patri

UMH 70

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

"Glory be to the Father" – words *Lesser Doxology*; music by Charles Meineke

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

"The Great Thanksgiving for Advent," © 1972 The Methodist Publishing House; © 1980, 1981, 1985 UMPH; © 1986 by Abingdon Press; © 1987, 1989, 1992 UMPH. Used by permission.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD & GIVING THE CUP

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,. Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

†HYMN

What Child Is This

UMH 219

What child is this who, laid to rest, Why lies he in such mean estate So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
on Mary's lap is sleeping? where ox and ass are feeding? come peasant, king, to own him;
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the King of kings salvation brings,
while shepherds watch are keeping? the silent Word is pleading. let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

"What Child Is This" – words by William Dix; music 16th century English melody CCLI #1550924

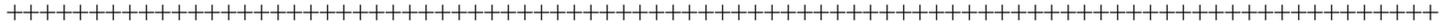
†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



PRAYER LIST

- The Weavers, Sandra Walton, Gage Hendley, Kristen Longfellow, Janice Dupree, Jason Krob, Ryan Baron, The Wilkes, Our Schools, Our Country, The Loros, Brenda Caps, Lauren Lawler, Guy De LaMarter, Joyce Bammes, Luke Shaeffer, Bri Benoit, Harold Marshall, Matt Lockwood, Our church family, Karn Schmidt, Betty Garner, Cindy North, Teresa Mitchum Hughes, The Lintners, Gene Ruelle, Carolyn & Patrick McClain, Bobbie Akers, Our elected officials, Michael Robinson, Bert Gardner, Kelly Kea, Paul Rider, Hannah Dintelman, Our Community, First Responders, Our Schools, Members of our military



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you're joining us for the live stream and would like to take Communion, come to the church between the end of serve and noon. Pastor Trey will be waiting by the porte cochère to give you the sacrament.

Donations of canned soup for Project Joy are due by Dec. 11, and next weekend is the time for sorting, boxing, and distributing. If you want to help, join us on Saturday, Dec. 12 at Whitehouse First Assembly for sorting and boxing food donations. If you'd like to help distribute food and gifts on Monday, Dec. 14, let Pastor Trey know.

