

## November 27, 2022, the First Sunday of Advent

### Greeting

Rev. David Petty

### Prelude

Stephanie Shorden

### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Jackie & John Fletcher



Reader 1: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. We are just barely starting to prepare a place for Christ.

Reader 2: We sing the familiar songs and decorate in a familiar way. We are expecting this year to be like all the others

Reader 1: As we light the first candle, the candle of HOPE, we have to ask ourselves:

Reader 2: What if we HOPE for the unexpected? What if we expected more than we have in years past? What if we expected and hoped for a miracle?

**Congregation: This is the day that the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it.**

### \*Gathering Song

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

UMH #196

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

*1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

### Mystery Box

### PRAYER

#### Invitation to Prayer

Rev. David Petty

Anyone wishing to come forward to the Communion Railing to pray or light a prayer candle may do so.

#### Prayer Song

*Pass Me Not, O Gentile Savior*

vs. 1 UMH #351

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1868

*1. Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.*

#### *Refrain*

*Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.*

#### Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Donnie Sturgill

*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 to trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory forever.*

**Prayer Response**

*Pass Me Not, O Gentile Savior*

vs. 2 UMH #351

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1868

*2. Let me at thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief, kneeling there in deep contrition; help my unbelief.*

**Refrain**

*Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.*

**GIVING BACK**

**Invitation to Offering**

Nancy Gehrung

**Offertory**

*How Great is Our God*

by Chris Tomlin & Jesse Reeves

Exalt! and Stephanie Shorden

**Prayer of Thanks & Dedication**

Rev. David Petty

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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!*

**MESSAGE**

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 7:14

Nancy Gehrung

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

**Anthem**

*Hear My Prayer*

by Moses Hogan

Exalt!

## Prayer for Illumination

Leader: May the words of my mouth,

**People: and the meditations of all of our hearts**

**All: be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our rock and our redeemer.**

**Psalm 19:14**

## Message

*The Real Gifts of Christmas - Expect a Miracle*

Rev. David Petty

## SENDING FORTH

### \*Affirmation of Faith

Pastor Donnie Sturgill

We believe in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking a humble form,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death –  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:

We believe in the triune God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that WE are the people of God.

We are St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

We celebrate the unconditional love of God,

We follow the way and teachings of Christ,  
through the power and guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

We believe we are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to Love our neighbor as ourselves.

**\*Sending Hymn**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

UMH #206

WORDS: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

© 1970, 1975 Celebration

*1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is 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.*

*2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my  
path, and show me the way to the Father.*

***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.*

*3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race,  
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.*

**Announcements**

Springs Rescue Mission,  
Family Christmas Event

**Benediction**

Rev. David Petty

**Postlude**

Stephanie Shorden