



Consider the following options to center yourself for worship:

BREATHING PRAYER: (Based on Psalm 146:5)

*In For A Count Of 4: **Happy Are Those....***

*Out For A Count Of 4: ... **Who Hope In The Lord.***

REFLECT ON QUOTE

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.”
– Mother Teresa

READ SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come
Jerry Bursch, Piano

arr. Laura E. Wasson

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WELCOME / OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH AND SERVICE

Pastor Matt McPhee

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Melissa Pryor

*Please rise in body and spirit.

Be patient! Wait and Watch for the Lord is drawing near to us.

We have gathered here this day to hear the good news and to gather strength for the times to come.

Be at peace with one another.

Let love and wisdom prevail.

Open your hearts and souls to God's healing word.

Lord, touch our hearts. Teach us to patiently listen for your words of love.

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*HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

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1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

4 Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Sandy Griffiths

First Reader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

*Please rise in body and spirit.

All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).

Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

Light the third candle (pink) of the Advent wreath.

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HYMN

Be The Light (verse 3)

Tune: Away in the Manger

Lyrics by Megan Waters, © 2025 Mary Scifres Ministries

Be a light of joy, dancing with cheer
A song for the soul
bringing warmth for the year.
Let your joy fill the world
as the spark catches flame.
The glow of our hearts,
gives praise to God’s name.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Almost There

by Michael W. Smith, Wes King, and Amy Grant
Donna Parrish, Vocals Jerry Bursch, Clavinova

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634

Song # 7029544

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Melissa Pryor

God of healing and hope, in the deserts of our world and the dry places of our hearts, let the bloom of your life-giving love break forth. Pierce the blindness that clouds our vision and lift the weariness that slows our steps. For we long to carry your good news into every barren place and to be instruments of your justice—where the blind see, the lame leap, the forgotten are welcomed, the lowly are lifted, and all creation rejoices in your righteous mercy. Amen.

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*Please rise in body and spirit.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 and ever. Amen.

*HYMN

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

UMH 182

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1. Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heaven descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

2. Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heaven to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.

3. Word that caused blind eyes to see,
speak and heal our mortal blindness;
deaf we are: our healer be;
loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
heal the world, by our sin broken.

*Please rise in body and spirit.

4. Word that speaks your Father's love,
one with him beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us,
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Melissa Pryor

Isaiah 35:1-10 (NRSVue)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.]]
Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

*Please rise in body and spirit.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11 (NRSVue)

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

*Please rise in body and spirit.

MESSAGE

Pastor Matt

CHORAL RESPONSE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634
Song # 12949

UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

We live out our membership vows by offering our prayers, our presence, our service, our gifts, and our witness. In this way, we glorify God with our whole lives.

CHORAL OFFERING

My Soul Rejoices arr. Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir - Jerry Bursch, Director

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*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* (UM Hymnal 94)
CCLI / Streaming: 1256912 / 20574634
CCLI Song # 3063266

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!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Melissa Pryor

Lord Jesus, we offer our gifts to you today, trusting in your promise that you are indeed the One who heals, who proclaims good news to the poor, and who brings hope to those in despair. As we give, we are reminded of your humble presence in the world and your invitation to follow you with hearts full of trust and faith. May our offerings reflect the joy we find in the assurance that, all things are made new through your love for us. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

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*HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH 246

*Please rise in body and spirit.

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1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Matt

*HYMN OF PARTING

Shalom to You

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634
Song #1913569

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through all your loving
Christ be your shalom. Christ be your shalom.

*Please rise in body and spirit.

POSTLUDE

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord
Jerry Bursch, Organ

arr. Paul Manz

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*Please rise in body and spirit.

Serving in Worship Today

Greeter: Susan Skogerson

Ushers: Linda Whitney & Mitzi Kerwien

Liturgist: Melissa Pryor

Music Director : Jerry Bursch

Pastor: Rev. Matthew M. McPhee

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Video of today's worship can be found at www.indioumc.com/media

Contact the Church Office at 760-347-1046 or office@indioumc.org.

Secure online contributions to the church can be made on our Church App or at www.indioumc.com/give.

CALENDAR:

December 14 – You are invited to Coffee Fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

December 14– Youth Group (grades 6-12) - **5:00 PM** in the youth room. Dinner provided.

Contact Margie (youth director) or Melissa for more information.

December 15-19 – New Day Devotions 8:00 AM via Zoom. (Link available in weekly e-news or by contacting the office)

December 16 —Bell Choir Practice 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

December 16—Koinonia Life Group 10:30 AM offsite at Members Homes –Contact Howard Bollinger for more information.

December 17 – Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM at Sloan's Restaurant in Indio.

December 17 - Tai Chi 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

December 21 —Adult Bible Studies 9:00 AM in the Adult Classroom

December 21 – Worship 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary, followed by Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

Stay Connected – Download our App



*Please rise in body and spirit.