

ADVENT ONE
A Service of Song, Word, & Table

November 30, 2025

* Please rise in body or spirit.

WELCOME

PRELUDE The People That Walked in Darkness Handel
 Marshal Hollingsworth, baritone

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us. **We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.**

Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

* **HYMN** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 1,2,6,7) UMH 211

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE — HOPE

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore."

Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

(11:00) ANTHEM Where the Light Begins Susan LaBarr
Chancel Choir

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

HOMILY

MUSICAL RESPONSE I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (vs
1,3) UMH 206

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, You call us to wake from sleep,
to become aware to our surroundings.
The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us.
Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll,
when our discussions become battles,
when our judgment and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us
put on the light of Christ
and live as You have called us
in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living.
Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ's light. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

REGATHERING HYMN Marching to Zion (vs1) UMH 733

INVITATION TO OFFERING & CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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Ever-Watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for your coming reign. We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that your kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes. Awaken us, Lord, to the “someday” you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY For He is Like a Refiner’s Fire G.F. Handel
Karah Ingraham, soprano

***DOXOLOGY** Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow Veni Emmanuel

Text for screen: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Sung responses tune:
Greensleeves

May the Approaching God be with you.

And also with you.

In the days to come, People of God,
offer your hearts to the One who comes near.

**We will lay aside all that keeps us from
opening ourselves to God.**

Now is the time to sing praises to the One who loves us.

**We offer our thanksgiving to God,
as we find ourselves standing within the gates of Advent.**

You spoke of the days to come, Architect of life, when anthills would erupt from dirt,
when cattle would gather under shade trees, when cats would nurture little children,

when chaos would be transformed into creation, and we stood within your garden of goodness.

All this beauty, all the wonder, was offered
so, we might walk in your light,

but we preferred the shadows of sin, opening our hearts so that thief, death,

could come and steal us away from you. You sent the prophets to us, urging us to lay aside our foolishness,

but we continued to put on
the armor of apathy and anger so, we could rebel against you.

Finally, when no one expected,
you came, not in power but poverty, a crying baby born to nobodies.

With those who worry about your return, with those who have forgotten to tell time, we sing of your praises:

**O Holy God of power and might! Hosanna in excelsis!
Blessed be the one who in your name comes! Hosanna in the highest!
Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Joy, joy, for Christ is nigh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

In the days to come, God of life,
may we be reminded of your holiness, and the blessing of your Child, Jesus. When we fear what lies over the horizon,

he comes, arms filled with grace.
When worries fall like leaves on our lives,

he stands on the front porch,

arm in arm with hope.
When the rumblings of angry rhetoric waken us in the night,

he lullabies us with songs of your love. When sin would lock us away
in the shadows of death,

he comes like a thief in the night, to steal our hearts back for you.

As we begin our journey to Bethlehem, as we seek to be alert and
awake,
we would proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Hosanna in excelsis! Hosanna in the highest!**

Now, pour out your Spirit upon
the gifts of the bread and the cup
and on those gathered in these moments. Feed us with the bread
which is broken, so, in the days to come, we may

bring healing to the shattered, embrace the lonely,
invite strangers to our family feasts.

Pour the grace of the cup into us, so, in the days to come, we may
wrap others in warm coats,
lay aside our differences,
walk with others in the light of justice.

And when you come when we least expect, to bring all history to an
end,
gather us around the Table of joy,
where we will join our siblings

of every place and time in forever praising you, God in Community,
Holy in One. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN IN YOUR HEART LANGUAGE)

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.

R3 Amen, Amen! Hosanna in excelsis! Amen, Amen! Hosanna in the highest!

MUSIC AT COMMUNION O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Joel Raney
Dr. Daniel Cummings and Stephen Montoya, piano

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*** SENDING HYMN** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
UMH 196

*** BENEDICTION**

Advent people, go from this place in the blessing of God who journeys with us, guiding our path as we wait, watch, and work for the day when we beat swords into plowshares and follow the path of peace until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

POSTLUDE Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus arr. Ian Wei Dr. Daniel Cummings and Stephen Montoya, piano