

home
FOR
Christmas
AT
WILDWOOD



Blue Christmas Eve Service 2022



Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7, NRSV

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.

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.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.

John 1:1–5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Is He Worthy?

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)
Is a new creation coming? (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves?
(He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

From every people and tribe (People and tribe)
Every nation and tongue (Every nation and tongue)
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God
To reign with the Son

Is He worthy? Is He worthy Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this?

O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

For the last four weeks, we lit these Advent candles symbolizing hope, peace, love, and joy. Today we light these candles remembering that Christ comes to earth to become one of us...to know our pain and our grief...to remember that we never have to bear the burdens of life alone. Jesus suffers with us. And, as we light these candles, we reframe the lighting of these candles.

We light four candles today in remembrance of our loved ones. We acknowledge all the loss and grief we have experienced this year, recognizing that Christ knows our needs as we gather, and intercedes on our behalf. We light one for our grief, one for our courage, one for our memories and one for our love.

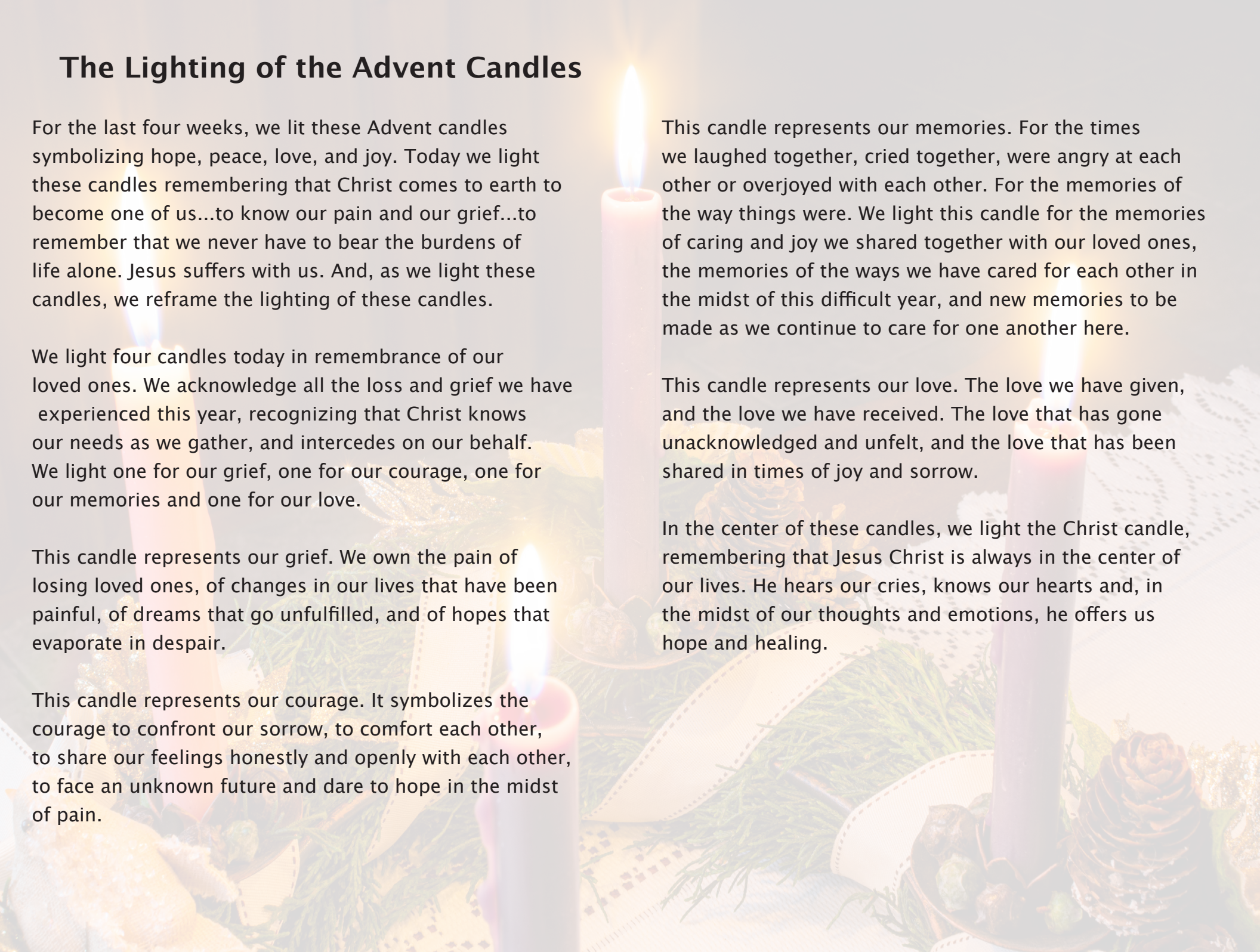
This candle represents our grief. We own the pain of losing loved ones, of changes in our lives that have been painful, of dreams that go unfulfilled, and of hopes that evaporate in despair.

This candle represents our courage. It symbolizes the courage to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other, to share our feelings honestly and openly with each other, to face an unknown future and dare to hope in the midst of pain.

This candle represents our memories. For the times we laughed together, cried together, were angry at each other or overjoyed with each other. For the memories of the way things were. We light this candle for the memories of caring and joy we shared together with our loved ones, the memories of the ways we have cared for each other in the midst of this difficult year, and new memories to be made as we continue to care for one another here.

This candle represents our love. The love we have given, and the love we have received. The love that has gone unacknowledged and unfelt, and the love that has been shared in times of joy and sorrow.

In the center of these candles, we light the Christ candle, remembering that Jesus Christ is always in the center of our lives. He hears our cries, knows our hearts and, in the midst of our thoughts and emotions, he offers us hope and healing.



Light of the World

The world waits for a miracle.
The heart longs for a little bit of hope.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

A child prays for peace on earth,
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt,

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

And can you hear the angels singing?

Glory to the Light of the world!

Glory the Light of the world is here!

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother.
A baby's cry is the sound of love come down.

Come down, Emmanuel.

He is the song for the suffering.

He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace, has come.

He has come, Emmanuel.

Glory to the light of the world!

For all who wait for all who hunger,
For all who've prayed for all who wonder,

Behold your King, behold Messiah.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

Glory to the light of the world!



One Service 10:00 am

Christmas Day

**Come dressed in your pj's
or comfy clothes**

New Year's Day

Jazz | Brunch

Ministry of Spiritual Direction



The Christian life often brings times of spiritual uncertainty—we may be unsure of God's will, confused about what God is doing in our circumstances, feeling spiritual dryness, or just stuck. Spiritual Direction provides a safe place to explore these questions and concerns and to help you determine your next step in your discipleship path.

Dr. Karen Smith is a trained Spiritual Director who is serving our Wildwood UMC congregation. For more information or to set up a convenient time to meet, email Karen at spiritualdirection@wildwood-umc.org.



The goal is to offer support to individuals in our church and in the community- to care for people physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially just as Jesus taught.

If you have questions or would like to be involved in this ministry, email Dr. Joan Appleton, RN., healthandwellness@wildwood-umc.org

no one has to hurt alone



stephen ministry
we can help



Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

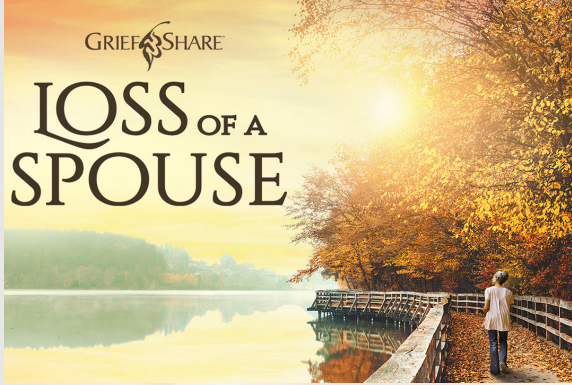


Dr. Deborah Henderer - dhenderer@comcast.net

GRIEVING THE DEATH OF YOUR SPOUSE?

GRIEF SHARE

LOSS OF A SPOUSE



January 10, 2023
6:00pm - 8:00pm

amy@wildwood-umc.org



January 17, 2023

11:00am to 1:00pm
or
6:00pm to 8:00pm

GRIEF SHARE



amy@wildwood-umc.org

Rev. Rhett Ansley - Lead Pastor

Rev. Deanna Young - Executive Pastor

Rev. Amy Boriack - Congregational Care Pastor

Rev. Janet Stilwell - Connections Pastor



WILDWOOD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Everyone who comes to Wildwood experiences the unconditional love and compassion of Jesus Christ, recognizes they belong, and is empowered to serve others."