

**Welcome and Announcements
Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Lighting the Advent Candles

***Invitation**

What if we live in a constant state of preparation for something great to happen? What if we truly believe God's reign of justice will come?

***Call to Worship**

Come! Rejoice in our God.

Let us give thanks, whatever life brings.

**May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.**

Let us prepare our hearts and our world
for the Prince of Peace, who is coming.

May all who weep come home with shouts of joy.

Prepare the way of the Lord,

and make straight the path for God's arrival.

In prayer, song, and service,

let us prepare for the birth of love.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

***Opening Hymn**

57 – O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs. 1-4, 7)

***Opening Prayer**

**Spirit of God, we give you thanks for drawing near,
for touching the world in the savior's birth.**

Help us draw near to you,

**as we prepare our hearts and our world
for the justice and peace you bring.**

Guide our preparations for Christmas,

**as we share the good news with those who suffer,
and as we offer our friendship
to those who are alone.**

Move within our hearts, |

**as we make a way for your coming,
by forgiving others as we have been forgiven.
Come, Spirit of God; be born in us anew,
that we may live in your mercy and your grace.
Amen.**

***Affirmation of Faith #881**

***Gloria Patri #70**

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Children's Time

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Message

***Hymn of Response**

539 – O Spirit of the Living God (vs. 1, 3-4)

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Generous God, your love renews us and restores our strength.

With gratitude, we offer you a portion of what you have given to us.

Receive our gifts, our prayers, and our service, that your church may become a source of hope for the world. Amen.

***Doxology #95**

****Closing Hymn**

2241 – The Spirit Sends us Forth to Serve (vs. 1, 3-4)

***Benediction**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, anointing us to bring hope to all people.
Go, and prepare the way for the Lord of Love. Amen.

**Congregation is invite to rise in body or spirit.*

*** If you'd like to join this fellowship of the United Methodist Church please come forward during the Closing Hymn - Benevolence Gifts can be left on alter rail.*

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.

UMH #881

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he arose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

December 20, 2020 Lectionary Texts

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38