

***CLOSING HYMN:**

“The Servant Song”

TFWS 2222

~ CHARGE & BENEDICTION ~

L: Go forth and walk the path of the Lord. Go forth and live as one instructed in the ways of the Lord. Take the weapons of your life and turn them into instruments of peace and justice. Praise be to our God who shows us the way! **Amen.**

Pastor: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—for the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere. Let yourselves be surprised by wonder and set aside time to offer quiet thanks. The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming. We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.

***POSTLUDE:**

“Aria” by Giuseppe Antonio Paganelli



Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church
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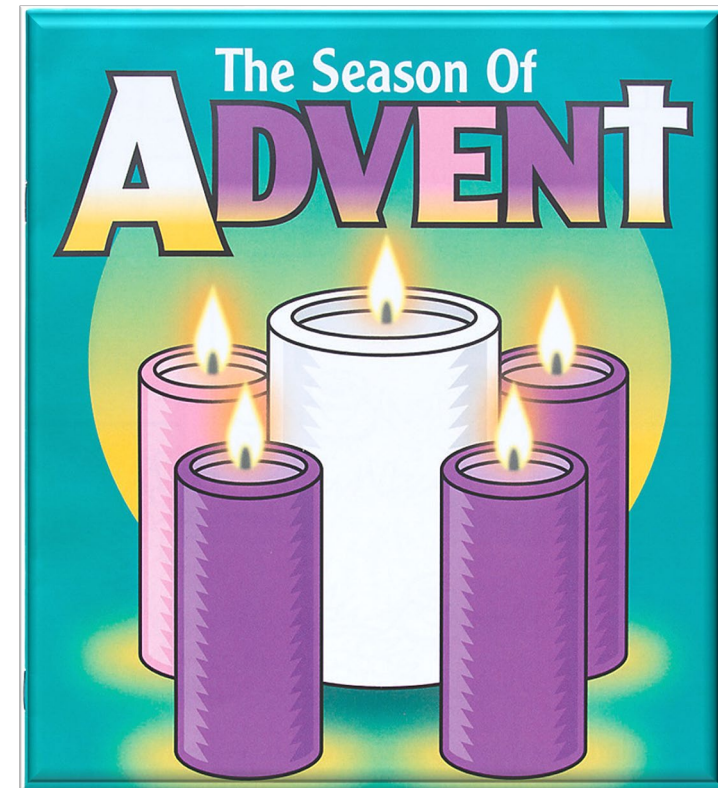
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*"The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world."*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT~ NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. In this season, we wait in hope for the coming of the Messiah.

It is important for Christians to know that Advent is as much about looking into the past and remembering the moment of Christ’s birth as it is about looking forward to His return, calling believers to anticipate, look forward, and ready themselves.



Dave Bertelsen, Singer

Alana Dalton, Liturgist

Rev. Clarissa L. Martinelli, Senior Pastor

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE: "Rock of Ages" by Thomas Hastings Deanna Gibeau, Organist

WELCOME:

~FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY~
Jenny Tsuzuki-Korbar and Tom Blish

One: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so, we light the first candle, the candle of *HOPE*, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

(First candle is lit.)

Verse one and refrain of "O Come, O come Emmanuel"

UMH 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

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

All: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

~5th AVE. JUNCTION - WHERE FAITH AND FAMILY COME TOGETHER~

~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

CENTERING MUSIC: "Jesus, Thou My Dearest Life" J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)

L: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us let go . . .

P: Of the things that trap us, the fears that silence us, the anger that haunts us.

L: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us let go . . .

P: Of the worry, stress or anxiety that have filled us since the last time we gathered in your presence.

L: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us let go . . .

P: Of grief, sadness, or a desire for something else.

L: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us pick up . . .

P: The gift of your grace, your love and your life that fills us.

L: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us pick up . . .

P: The gift of each other, the gift of this community, the gift of this time of worship.

L: As we gather for worship O Lord, help us say together,

P: We are here. We are not alone.

L: Jesus Christ is among us today.

P: Alleluia! Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSIO (Unison)**

All: Lord of all times, we come into your presence asking your forgiveness. We have failed to live as people of the present. We have wasted our moments, wanting the future now, seeing our dreams as the answer to today's problems. Rather than seeing your blessing in each day, we have looked backward to glory days that seem glorious only in their passing. Open our eyes to our mission at hand. Open our ears to your message to us today, that we might share in bringing the good news of your salvation to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

L: Christ has paid the price for your sin because he sought your presence in the house of God. When we confess our sin, we no longer have to fear the throne of judgment. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! **AMEN.**

***HYMN:** "There's Something About That Name" x3 UMH 171

***WE PROCLAIM~**

1 Chronicles 4:10 (NRSVUE)~(Unison)

All: "And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, 'Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain. ' So, God granted him what he requested."

Luke 2:11-15 (EHV) (Unison)

All: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped (con'd on insert)

in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward humanity.”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Praise to the Living Word.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

“Shout to the North”
Dave Bertelsen, Director

Marty Parks

SERMON: “Tell Us About God: We Have Almost Forgotten”

Pastor Clarissa

~ COMING BEFORE GOD IN PRAYER ~

Prayers of the People:

Petitioner: “Lord in your mercy,”

People: “hear our prayer.”

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer:

God of Time and Light, You bring hope to us, as you always have through the voices of the great prophets, and now through the One who is to come, Jesus Christ. Remind us again what this season is truly about.....love, hope, peace and joy. Calm us down. Slow us down. Help us remember that it is in loving relationship that you gave your Son to us and it is in loving relationship that your Word is carried into the hearts of the people. No tinsel, ribbons, tape, cards can convey the eternal message adequately. Bless those dear ones whom we name before you today with your healing, reconciling, comforting presence and love. Give strength to all who face difficult situations and let your compassionate light shine on them guiding their decisions and their steps. Bring us at last to your presence, where the light of hope and love continually pour out on us. These prayers and hopes we offer in confidence and gratitude for your love and presence

Pastor: Please remind us of our need for one another as we silently reflect and pray...

(over)

THE LORD’S PRAYER...in unison

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

~WE RESPOND~

A Time of Giving - Our Tithes, Talents & Ourselves - Now is the offering time, when we offer up our gifts of time, talent, and treasure for God’s mission in the world. For followers of Jesus, giving isn’t simply about keeping the church going. Giving is a discipline; it is an act of our commitment to God. We trust that God will not only use it to change us, but to change the world. God not only gives us bread to fill our bellies, God gives us seed to extend the reach of the harvest. I invite you to plant the seeds you’ve been given by offering up your gifts and tithes for God’s work in the world. The offering will now be received.

*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!

*OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)

All: Collaborative Creator God, you call us to join in your work of love in the world, and you equip us with all we need to follow your lead. Now make us generous of hand, heart, and mind, as you are. As we return to you a portion of your gifts, we pray you would receive them as a sign of our gratitude for your unending love, and guide us as we offer our whole selves in your service, seeking your abundant life for all. Amen.

(con’d on back of bulletin)