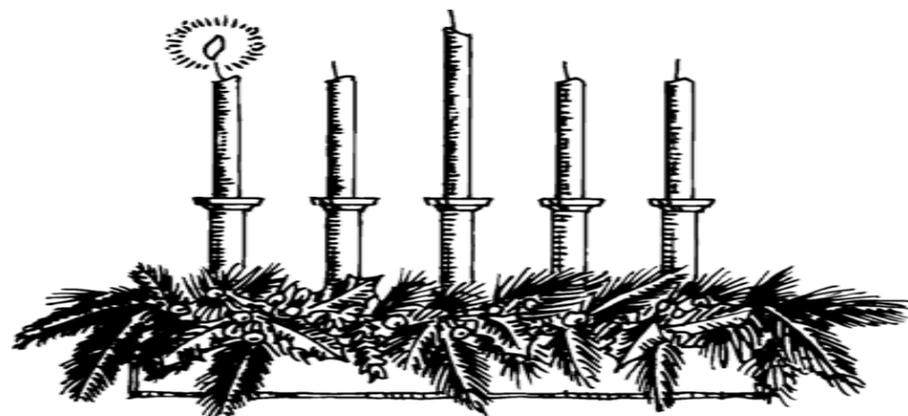


# Highland Park United Methodist Church



## *First Sunday* OF ADVENT **THE COMMUNITY IN WORSHIP** December 1, 2013

PRESERVICE MUSIC ..... Piano Duets  
English Carols  
*Here We Come A' Caroling, Ding Dong Merrily on High,  
The Holly and the Ivy*

### A TIME FOR GATHERING AND FELLOWSHIP

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE  
(Please register your attendance on the pad located at the end of the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE ..... Organist  
*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John Wade's "Cantus Deversi"

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

### A TIME FOR ADORATION

CHORAL INTROIT ..... *Until Jesus Comes*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of Christ!

**As we gather to pray and sing and listen, a spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.**

The days are surely coming, says Our God, when justice and righteousness will prevail.

**May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds, freeing us to respond joyfully to God's call in the days to come.**

\*HYMN OF ADVENT ..... UMH 202  
*People Look East*

### A TIME TO LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE ..... James & Lori Stine & family

UNISON PRAYER

**Lord God, reveal yourself to us again. Help us this Advent season to focus on your son Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve. Help us not to serve ourselves this December, but to serve you as we serve others. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE ..... TFWS 2090  
*Light the Advent Candle (verse 1)*

### A TIME FOR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### A TIME FOR PRAYER

A PERIOD OF SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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.**

### A TIME FOR PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS  
Matthew 3:1-2  
Romans 13:11-14

This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON ..... *Sacred Time!*

### A TIME FOR GIVING OF OURSELVES

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ..... Organist/Pianist  
*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
tune: VENI EMMANUEL; Chant melody

\*DOXOLOGY ..... UMH 94  
*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Giver of all good gifts, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship, and our material resources wherever they are needed. Amen.**

### A TIME FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING ..... back page

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS  
(Offerings left on the Communion Rail will go to our many mission projects.)

COMMUNION MUSIC ..... Organist  
A Medley of Carols by Alfred Burt  
*Caroling, Caroling*  
*The Star Carol*  
*Some Children See Him*  
*The First Noel/Christmas Eve Waltz* — arr. by David Lang

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

**Gracious God, may the power of this sacrament take hold of our lives and inspire us to live boldly, that all things now and in the time to come will be conformed to your eternal will. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

### A TIME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION ..... UMH 213  
*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

\*GREET ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN PEACE

### A TIME FOR BEING SENT FORTH

\*SENDING FORTH

As we begin this season of Advent, let us re-ignite our sense of wonder.

**We pray that God will help us move beyond what is familiar to an indescribable glory.**

Be still, in the midst of what your minds cannot fully grasp, and what your lips cannot fully explain.

**We pray that God will fill our hearts this Advent with restored amazement for what has been done, for the love shown and for the gift given.**

We offer ourselves in the spirit of Christ.  
**Amen.**

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION ..... front of hymnal  
*May the Lord Be With You*

We invite you to be seated for the postlude.

POSTLUDE ..... Piano Duet  
*Deck the Halls* — Traditional English Carol  
Arr: Lani Smith

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

\*indicates congregation standing

## WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests. We are glad you came. Please sign the register in the pew to let us know you attended. We look forward to having you worship with us again soon.

## *This Week at Highland Park*

### TODAY — December 1

- First Sunday of Advent
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
  - 3-5 p.m. Advent Craft Workshop
  - 5-6 p.m. Spaghetti Supper
  - 6-7 p.m. Advent Worship — *Hanging of the Greens*

### MONDAY — December 2

- 6:00 p.m. Cloverleaf 4-H
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees

### TUESDAY — December 3

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

### WEDNESDAY — December 4

- 9:00 a.m. UMW/Lincoln Academy Craft Day
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

### THURSDAY — December 5

- 7:00 a.m. Grape Jelly Gang
- 12:00 p.m. Stillwater Noon Lions Club
- 4:00 p.m. Golden Oaks Chapel Service

### FRIDAY — December 6

- 10:00 a.m. Newsletter Article Deadline

### NEXT SUNDAY — December 8

- Second Sunday of Advent
  - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (second class of "*Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam*" for adults in fellowship hall)
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
  - 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Luncheon
  - 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE USHER STAND
- CHILDREN'S BULLETINS (AGES 3-6 AND 7-12) ARE AVAILABLE
- INDIVIDUAL LISTENING DEVICES FOR HEARING ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE

# Words on Worship

Today is the **First Sunday of Advent**. The liturgical color for this season is **purple**.

While the secular world begins the new year on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the church year begins with Advent.

The season of Advent is about Jesus, the Word, "coming." It is about anticipating and preparing for Christ's arrival.

God comes to us in many and various ways. He speaks to us through the prophets and saints. He comes and speaks to us when we are listening. He comes in the beauty and mysteries of nature. Most of all, God comes in the person of Christ, speaking to his listeners face to face.

Pastor Edmund Steimle put it this way: "The Christian story is a story of God coming into the middle of life, of our lives, opening the dialogue with us."

That's what Advent is really all about: God visiting the earth in person to speak with anyone and everyone who is ready to do so.



[www.newsletternewsletter.com](http://www.newsletternewsletter.com)

#### PERSONS LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

- PREACHER — Rev. Jim Jones
- LITURGIST— James Stine
- ORGANIST/PIANIST— Claudia Mornhinweg
- CHOIR DIRECTOR/PIANIST — Gayla Foster
- GREETERS — Kenneth Conway and Rollin Reimer
- ACOLYTES — Angel Bonar and Misty McGuire

#### LITURGICAL RESOURCES

- Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication: *Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*, pg. 275.
- Lighting of the Advent Candles: .
- Great Thanksgiving: [www.gbod.org/worship](http://www.gbod.org/worship); by Alex Joyner.
- Prayer Following Communion: *Chalice Worship*, #645/pg. 420.
- Sending Forth (adapted): UM Church of the Good Shepherd (Yukon, OK), 27 November 11 bulletin.

### Highland Park United Methodist Church

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[highlandparkumc@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:highlandparkumc@suddenlinkmail.com)

Office Hours:  
Monday through Friday  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 3:00 pm

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right to give you thanks and praise, Great God of the Coming Dawn, for in each new day you surprise the earth with splendor. Your Spirit ...

The God of Israel did not abandon the people Israel and you spoke of a day to come when you would come once more to save. And so we who live on the edge of this land look across the waters to the horizon. We come to live on the edge of your new and promised day. And we raise our voices with all the saints as we proclaim,

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, and blessed in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, whose coming was announced by wilderness prophets and who arrived to the song of angels in the choir stall of a manger. ...

On the night when he was betrayed he sat at a table with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, served it to them, and said, "Take this. Eat it. It is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way he took the cup, Blessed it, served it to them, and said, "Drink from this every one of you. This is my blood poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

And so we remember. And so we offer our praise and thanks and our very selves as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us. As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

So we await your new day. So we call on you to send your Holy Spirit on us once more and on this parched and thirsty land and on these elements of bread and wine. Let them be for us once more Christ's body and let us be for you once more Christ's body redeemed by his blood.

Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes again and we feast at his table. With all the saints who share your name and our flesh, we raise this song, until we hear in fullness the harmony of heaven. God of the Dawn, Christ of the new Day Coming, Spirit who is Ever Present, we wait for you this day, your day.

**Amen.**