



## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*To shine with the  
Light of Jesus  
so that others will  
know and love him*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner, piano*

ANNOUNCEMENTS and WELCOME

PRELUDE *Dan Martin, organ*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*Jr., SarahJean, and Scotlynn McGee*

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”

*Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NIV)*

The Season of Advent is an invitation to meditate on the promises of God. Here is what the prophet Jeremiah sees:

... a righteous leader will spring up  
... one who will carry out justice and righteousness  
... one who brings salvation and safety for the people

How then do we live as those who believe that the promises of God will be fulfilled?

... as those who lift up their souls to God?  
... as those who walk a path of love and faithfulness?

... as those who work for justice and righteousness?  
... as those who live in the light of hope?

If we are alert to the promise of the Lord and live in the light of hope, we will be truly blessed as Christ comes again into our lives.

*[Here, light the first purple Advent candle]*

Advent Song: *Hope is a Star, v. 1*  
*(The song will be played through once, and then,  
everyone will sing only the first verse.)*

- 1. Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright. When God is a child there’s joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promises I have made.

**To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls:  
In you, O God, we trust.**

The one who is coming will show us the path of steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Teach us your ways, O God of our salvation.**

We light this candle in the sure hope that God’s promises endure.

**We will live in the light of hope as we await the coming of the Lord.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 100*  
*God Whose Love Is Reigning o’er Us, vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5*

- 1. God, whose love is reigning o’er us, source of all, the ending true; hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you: Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.**
- 2. Word of God from nature bringing springtime green and autumn gold; mountain streams like children singing,**

**ocean waves like thunder bold: Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation’s tale is told.**

- 4. Covenant, new again in Jesus, Starchild born to set us free; sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love’s children we might be. Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior he!**
- 5. Lift we then our human voices in the songs that faith would bring; live we then in human choices lives that, like our music, sing: Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!**

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## The Church in Moments of Confession

CALL TO CONFESSION *Leader*

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Unison*

**Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation.**

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Responsively*

Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the Lord guide your way, strengthen you in all holiness, and make you abound in love for one another and for all.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Unison*

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.

The Church Family Celebrates

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Emelia Eleanor Whitehair*

*Born: December 25, 2020*

*Parents: Todd and Alison Whitehair, Sister: Ella*

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME *Responsively*  
Members of the household of God, I commend this little one and her family to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their Faith, confirm their Hope, and perfect them in Love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

RESPONSE

*UMH 206*

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, v. 1*

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both**

alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

The Church Listens for the Word

WIGGLETIME

WORD IN MUSIC

THE WORD

SERMON

*Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

The Church Scatters to Share Good News

+HYMN OF DEDICATION

*UMH 211*

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vv. 1, 6, & 7*

- 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.**
- O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**
- O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

+BENEDICTION

*Pastor*

God's presence and promises are real.

Go now into God's world, trusting in God's love and placing your hope in God.

Go in peace. Amen.

+POSTLUDE

...and the worship continues.



Child of Promise, God Claims you  
God Helps you,  
Protects You,  
and Loves You, too

First Sunday of Advent

28 November 2021

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Rev. Steven Meadows, pastor



FIRST UNITED  
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