



CELEBRATION OF ADVENT

Gathering with thankful hearts as God's people to be inspired to live as a community of Christ

+ Those who are able are invited to stand.

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS - The Faith We Sing
You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

THE FAMILY OF GOD GATHERS TO WORSHIP

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
to the empty-handed and the heavy-hearted,
to the despairing and the despised.*

*Enter this world,
giving love to the lowly
and hope to the downcast.*

*Dwell among us, and teach us your ways,
saving the lost and strengthening the weak.
Inhabit us, that we might cast out our fear
and live boldly by faith.*

*With gratitude that you come to be with us,
we worship joyfully this day!*

Thanks Be to God! Welcome to Worship!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Renee Warner

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE

Dan Martin

SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Acolytes

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Chancel Choir*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1 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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. ...—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up to give thanks to the name of the LORD. For there the thrones for judgment were set up, ...Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ... Peace be within your walls and security within your towers." ...I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

(Psalm 122:1 NRSV)

We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome.

It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kingdom to come.

Hear this word from what Isaiah saw about the Future House of God.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they

shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored.

And so, we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.

+HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vv. 2, 4, & 6

THE FAMILY OF GOD CONFESSES

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Romans 13:11-14*

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader

How can we stand in the presence of God? Let us confess those places where we need to grow to prepare for Christ to come into our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Responsively

God, we are ready now. We want peace now. We long to receive the Prince of Peace in our world today. But don't delay too long, Holy One, for already we're busy with parties, and decorating, and

baking, and shopping. Our lives are crammed so full, we find it hard to calendar you in; we find it hard to locate the time to welcome the Light of the World. We need your help, O God.

Teach us to set aside our party wardrobes, and clothe ourselves in Jesus Christ. Guide us into true readiness, even though we do not know the date and time, when true peace will reign. Wake us up; shake off the cobwebs of our complacency; and take us with you on the path up your holy mountain. Plant your peace within us, so that each day, each moment, we may be ready for the harvest of your love.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *Leader*

This is the Good News in Jesus Christ. We can stand before God, not through our own goodness, but through God's great kindness to us.

Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to you!

RESPONSE *UMH 196*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, v. 1

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.

THE FAMILY OF GOD LISTENS

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME *UMH 219*

What Child Is This, v. 1

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

WIGGLETIME

Following Wiggletime, the Children are invited to join the Leaders in Linger Hall for CHILDREN'S CHURCH.

WORD IN MUSIC *Chancel Choir*

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

THE FAMILY OF GOD SCATTERS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 203*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

+ SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...the worship continues

