



# CELEBRATION OF ADVENT WORSHIP

Gathering 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 TFWS – The Faith We Sing  
You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

-As We Gather at Your Table, FWS, 2268

## THE CHURCH GATHERS TO CELEBRATE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*  
*Jesus said, "I Am the Light of the world."*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

“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.

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.

*[Here light the first purple Advent candle]*

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

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 211*  
*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

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 *Responsively*  
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. **Amen.**

RESPONSE *The Summons, v. 5 FWS 2130*  
**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

THE CHURCH RESPONDS WITH GIFTS  
OFFERTORY INVITATION  
OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*Dan Martin*

+DOXOLOGY *In the Bleak Midwinter, v.4. UMH 221*  
**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

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THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD  
THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME *UMH 629*

*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart, v. 4*

*(Refrain): You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of  
finest wheat. Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the  
bread of life to eat.*

**4. The mystery of your presence, Lord, no mortal  
tongue can tell; whom all the world cannot contain  
comes in our hearts to dwell. (Refrain)**

WIGGLETIME *...then to Children's Church!*

THE SOLO

*Renee Warner*

SERMON

*Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

THE WORD IN MUSIC

*Chancel Choir*

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THE CHURCH CELEBRATES HOLY COMMUNION

We dare not come to this table trusting in our goodness.

**We come knowing we need forgiveness and trusting  
God to grant it.**

We come because we are hungry for meaning and need to  
be fed. We come because Jesus Christ invites each one of  
us.

**We come as Christ's guests to the heavenly banquet.**

We come in remembrance, recalling the sacrifice of Christ.

**Jesus, stand among us today as host and celebrant.**

There is movement in the beyond: a snarl of light, but it is  
not yet. This is the waiting.

There is movement in the beyond: the whirl of angel wings,  
but it is not yet. This is the waiting.

There is movement in the beyond: a gathering of love, but  
it is not yet. This is the waiting.

And waiting for us, in the hinting of God, is a cup of grace,  
and in the lingering aroma of heaven, lies a loaf enfolded  
in promise. And in the waiting for the "not yet," God's  
"now" is made real: in the sound of this breaking bread,  
and the stirring of this poured cup. Here at this banquet  
table, on the very edge of heaven's story, the promise is  
proclaimed, and God offers in grain and fruit, the body and  
blood for our waiting, longing, desire for incarnation.

COMMUNION HYMN

*UMH 210*

*Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting), vv. 1,3,4*

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many are one body,  
for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we  
break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood  
of Christ.

The body of Christ, given for you.

*(The eating of the bread.)*

The blood of Christ, given for you.

*(The drinking of the cup.)*

COMMUNION REFLECTION

*Dan Martin*

*During the music following Communion, you are  
welcome to come to the chancel in personal prayer.*

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THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION

*UMH 234*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful, vv. 1,3,6*

+THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

*The Acolytes*

*Jesus said, "I Am the Light of the world."*

+BENEDICTION

All praise is yours, O God. You bring us to this table in  
this season of waiting as family. Lead us now, through  
each of our moments, to that glorious day when all your  
children will gather as Your family. We pray in the name  
of Jesus Christ, who is our peace made flesh. **Amen.**

+POSTLUDE

*Dan Martin*

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*...and the worship continues.*