



+ 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.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING
*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 *WV Brass Quintet*
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY
PRELUDE *WV Brass Quintet*
SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*
Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world.”
CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Chancel Choir*
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, v. 1 UMH 196
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 Message Isaiah got regarding Judah and Jerusalem: There’s a day coming when the mountain of GOD’s House will be The Mountain-solid, towering over all mountains. All nations will river toward it, people from all over set out for it. They’ll say, “Come, let’s climb GOD’s Mountain, go to the House of the God of Jacob. He’ll show us the way he works so we can live the way we’re made.” Zion’s the source of the revelation. GOD’s Message comes from Jerusalem. He’ll settle things fairly between nations. He’ll make things right between many peoples. They’ll turn their swords into shovels, their spears into hoes. No more will nation fight nation; they won’t play war anymore. Come, family of Jacob, let’s live in the light of GOD.
Isaiah 2:2-5 (The Message)
The Season of Advent is an invitation to reflect on faithful vision and what it means to live in expectation of its fulfillment. Consider what the prophet Isaiah sees: . . . the Lord's house established on the highest of the mountains. . . people seeking instruction and the Word of the Lord. . . a righteous Lord who will bring peace,

. . . an invitation to walk in the light of the Lord. How then do we live as those who believe that the promises of God will be fulfilled? . . . as those who are faithfully present in the house of the Lord? . . . as those who are willing to be instructed in the Word of the Lord? . . . as those who would seek the peace that the Lord brings? . . . as those who would daily walk in the light of the Lord?
If we are willing to trust in a faithful vision and are willing to live in the expectation that it will be fulfilled, then our discipleship will prepare us for the coming of Emmanuel.
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. We will go up to the mountain of the Lord; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. The one who is coming will bring a new order to life and teach us the way of peace. Awaken us, O Lord, as your salvation draws near.
We light this candle, trusting that Immanuel will surely come.
(Light the first Advent candle.)
In this light we will await the coming of the Lord.
+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 211*
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, 1,2,6,7

THE FAMILY OF GOD CONFESSES
NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Romans 13:11-14*
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 soon we’ll be 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.

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.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 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.**

THE FAMILY OF GOD SHARES OFFERTORY INVITATION AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY *WV Brass Quintet*

+DOXOLOGY *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 up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The Children are invited to the Chancel
for Wiggletime.*

THE FAMILY OF GOD LISTENS

WIGGLETIME

THE WORD

WORD IN MUSIC *Chancel Choir*

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

THE FAMILY OF GOD SCATTERS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 234*
O Come, All Ye Faithful, vv. 1, 3, 5

+ SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*
Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*
Advent people, go from this place in the blessing of God who journeys with us, guiding our path as we wait, watch, and work for the day when we beat swords into plowshares and follow the path of peace until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

+POSTLUDE *WV Brass Quintet*
...the worship continues.

