



**Order of Worship
November 28, 2021
The First Sunday in Advent
10:00 AM**

*10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

McGee

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Advent Litany

Susan Whitman

The coming of our Lord is near,
and we wait in joyful expectation,
draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,
shed your light on all that is filled with darkness.

The coming of our Lord is near,
and we wait with hope filled hearts,
draw close, God's beloved son,
teach us the wonder of your all-embracing love.

The coming of our Lord is near,
and we wait for God's redeeming presence,
draw close, Savior of all creation,
our hearts ache for justice,
our minds long for holiness,
our spirits seek for unity.

The coming of our Lord is near,
and we wait for the fulfillment of God's promises,
**draw close, reconciler and transformer of all things,
renew our world, restore your peace, display your righteousness.**

The coming of our Lord is near,
and we wait for God's light to shine over all the earth,
**draw close, pain bearer, life giver, love sharer,
shine through us, in us, around us, shine for the world to see.**

The coming of our Lord is near,
and we wait attentive to the signs of his coming,
**draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,
God beyond imagining, fully God yet truly human, draw close.**

Hymn (See last page)

People Look East

UMH 202

Lighting the Advent Candles: The Candle of Hope

Wendy Rutherford and Kara, Quinn and Easton Vandenburg

“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 it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.”

“Today, we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, the candle of hope. May this candle remind us of God’s great promise to us. God is our hope, God is our Redeemer, and God is our Savior.”

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Prayer: God of Hope, during the Advent season may we be reminded of your promises to us and your fulfillment of them. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Sung Response (See last page)

Advent Song, Verse One

FWS 2090

Children’s Message

Quinn Hetherington

Morning Prayer

Pastor Debra

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.

Ministry of Music

A New King is Coming

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Susan Whitman

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Susan Whitman

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NIV)

¹⁴ “‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵ “‘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.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:

The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’

New Testament Reading

Susan Whitman

Matthew 24:36-44

The Day and Hour Unknown

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So

you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Sermon

Even in Chaos, Hope

Pastor Debra

Call to Confession

Pastor Debra

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days. But watch what God does during this time. God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths; God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do, so we might be forgiven and graced with new life. Let us approach the One who waits - for us!

Prayer of Confession (All Praying)

Pastor Debra

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God.

**There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends,
which we would like to forget.**

**There are those we believe are impossible to love,
and so we don't try.**

**There are people who live on the edge of our society,
and we ignore their cries for help.**

Forgive us, God who comes near to us.

When we have lost our way, show us yours.

Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom.

Teach us your truth,

so we might be able to keep your Word,

revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life. Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love. You are the God of our days, we wait for you to come to us. Amen.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Debra

God invites us to place our faith in eternal, heavenly things. We give back to God what God has given to us and we do so with our earthly possessions – money. We ask God to multiply the gifts we offer up today so that our community will be empowered to minister to the needs of all within our community and the world.

Offertory

Once in Royal David's City

Gauntlett

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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 uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication*

Susan Whitman

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope. And we give in hope. Hope for your coming reign; Hope because of your presence with us even now. Receive these generous offerings, and use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn (See last page) *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

UMH 203

Benediction

Pastor Debra

Be people of hope.

Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.

Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.

Share hope by listening to someone's story.

Share hope by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet.

Go in peace. Amen.

Sung Benediction

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

POSTLUDE

All Earth is Waiting

Taule

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

People, look east.

The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad.

Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,

That in course the flower may flourish.

*People, look east:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch.
When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.*

*People, look east:
Love, the Star, is on the way.*

*Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word,
the Lord is coming.*

*People, look east:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

ADVENT SONG, VERSE ONE

*Light the Advent candle, one:
Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way,
Time to think of Christmas day.*

*Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.*

*He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.*

*He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.*

*To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.*