



**Order of Worship
December 5, 2021
The Second Sunday in Advent
10:00 AM**

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

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

*Riu riu chiu/Tidings of Comfort and Joy Music by Shelanu
Elizabeth Brubaker, Caroline Clegg, Ashley Gingerich, Sarah Gingerich w/Megan Ensor on
recorder*

Call to Worship

Sandy Bruner

"Would those who are able please stand."

'Prepare the way,' the prophets call,
'make ready the highways for God.'

**How we long to walk down the sidewalks
in God's kingdom of peace!**

Prepare your hearts,
for God's realm opens up a new day.

**We yearn for the time
when the wolf and lamb will live together in harmony.**

Prepare the way,
God promises a new day when adversaries will lay down their arms.

We dream of a world transformed by God's love.

May the God of hope fill your hearts with all joy and peace.

We rejoice for God's Spirit is in our midst!

Hymn (see last page)

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

Lighting the Advent Candles: The Candle of Peace

Andrew, Cheryl, and Joseph Cotsimopoulos

Sung Response (see last page) *Advent Song, Verse Two* FWS 2090

Children's Message Pastor Debra

Morning Prayer Pastor Debra

Ministry of Music *Do You Hear What I Hear?* *Shelanu*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying) Sandy Bruner

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 Sandy Bruner

Malachi 3:1-4

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

New Testament Reading Sandy Bruner

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracōnitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
⁶ And all people will see God's salvation."

Sermon

Preparing the Way

Pastor Debra

Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor Debra

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debra

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Debra

When we repent, God creates in us a new heart, and puts a new and right spirit within us. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Debra

Offertory

Infant Holy

Polish Carol

**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*

Sandy Bruner

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace, and we give in peace. A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear. A peace growing from our trust in your loving power. Receive these generous offerings, And use them to bring your peace to our world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day

when justice shall roll down like waters

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,

when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,

whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.

You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts

and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.

You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree.

You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.

Your own Son came among us as a servant

to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.

He humbled himself in obedience to your will

and freely accepted death on a cross.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer (All Praying)

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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Dedication (All Praying)

Sandy Bruner

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn (see last page) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH 211

Benediction

Pastor Debra

Be people of peace.

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

Share peace by acting out of compassion and not fear.

Share peace by listening to all sides of the story.

Share peace by praying for our world.

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

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

O Ye Joyful People

German Carol

BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

*Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.*

*Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.*

*On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!*

ADVENT SONG, VERSE TWO

*Light the Advent candle, two:
Think of humble shepherds, who
filled with wonder at the sight
of the child of Christmas night.*

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

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

*Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. **Refrain***

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. **Refrain***

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. **Refrain***

*O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. **Refrain***