



December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

Veni Emmanuel

French Melody

*Call to Worship

As we journey through the Sundays of Advent,
listen to the promises of God:

a righteous branch springs forth,
a promise of justice and righteousness,
a promise of safety.

Listen to the promise of Jesus:

the kingdom of God draws near.

Keep alert; watch for signs of hope.

Our Advent journey begins.

Opening Prayer

God of every season,

as we begin our journey through Advent,
turn our hearts toward you.

Guide us into your realm of peace and joy.

Teach us to set aside our worries,
as we walk in faithfulness and trust.

May the love within us be born anew.

Help us remain alert,

that we may respond to pain and suffering
and notice the signs of abundant life
all around us.

Come, Lord Jesus; come to us now, we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Damon Moore

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Quinn Hetherington

May God increase our love for one another and strengthen our hearts in holiness, as we greet one another in peace.

Children’s Message

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music

Waiting for a King

Choir w/Megan Ensor

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer of Preparation

All Praying

O God, help us know your ways.

Teach us your paths

and lead us in your truth.

As we hear these scriptures,

may they open our hearts

to your life-giving grace. Amen.

Scripture Reading

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant

of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called ^[b]the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

***Hymn**

Change My Heart, O God

TFWS 2152

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Sermon

"King Jesus"

Pastor Larry

Offertory Invitation

Quinn Hetherington

As God promises to execute justice and righteousness in the world, God invites us to help make this promise a reality. Let us offer our gifts and our lives, that all may be blessed.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

An Advent Prayer

Stairs

**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

Quinn Hetherington

We thank you, God, for the joy we feel this day. We are blessed by this community of love, this sanctuary of acceptance. We place our trust in you, knowing that you care for us. With deep gratitude for all you provide to us, we offer our gifts to you. Centered our hearts during this season of giving. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING with Music Response

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,
Father Almighty,

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,
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.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.
Amen.

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

Prayer of Thanksgiving (All Praying)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Closing Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

GOING FORTH WITH JOY

***Benediction**

Pastor Larry

***Choral Benediction**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230

*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**

Echo Carol

German Melody

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHT GATES

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!*

*2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*3 Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.*

*4 Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!*

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

*Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.
You are the Potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.*

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.*

*2 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.*

*3 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!*

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

*Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

Refrain:

***Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.***

*2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]*

*3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]*

*4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
(Refrain)*

