

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Fred Bock
Geistliche Kirchengesang

Greeting

*Advent Candle Lighting

One: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

One: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come".

Many: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

One: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Light the first candles of the Advent wreath.

*Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v. 1, 2, 6 & 7) UMH 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Praise Songs

I Have Joy in My Heart

I have joy in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart...
Jesus gave to me, and no one can destroy it.
I have joy in my heart; deep, deep down in my heart...

We Will Celebrate Our God

We will celebrate our God!...
Let his banner be raised, let his glory be seen.
We will celebrate our God!...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

O God, we are challenged to be patient during these days of Advent. Yet we find ourselves growing less patient as we wait in slow retail lines, manage our overfilled calendars, wrap gifts, and do online shopping and home decorating into late-night hours. Be patient? Yes, be patient. In this worshipful moment, strengthen our hearts, center our minds, and quiet our bodies, for your coming is near. We pray as your beloved ones. Amen.

Children's Time

Announcement

Prayers of the People, & the Lord's Prayer

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH 393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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.

The Offering

Offertory Music

Joy Like a River in my Soul

NewLove Annan

Joy like a river, Joy like a river, Joy like a river in my soul
Joy like a river, Joy like a river, Joy like a river in my soul...
Joy like a river, Joy like a river, Joy like a river in my soul,
Right in my soul
Joy like a river, Joy like a river, Joy like a river in my soul.
Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy like a river,
Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy in my soul
Joy! Like a river, Joy! Like a river, Joy like a river in my soul.

*Doxology

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of Peace

“Shalom”

Mensah Essilfie

God’s peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

*Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Anthem

“My Lord, What a Mornin’”

H. T. Burleigh 1866 – 1949

My Lord, what a mornin’, when de stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worl’ly ways, jine dat hebbently ban’.

Message

Holy Communion

“The Great Thanksgiving”

UMH 13-14

Invitation to Dedication of Pledges

Dedication of 2024 Pledge Cards

"The Jesus Gift"

Gilbert M. Martin (born in Southbridge, MA 1941)

Shall I gather emeralds, shall I bring him gold?
Shall I shower diamonds, white-hard, bright cold?
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?

Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,
Offer him warm laughter and love.

Shall we gather emeralds, shall we bring him gold?
Shall we shower diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold?
Shall we spangle jewels like stars above?

Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,
Offer him warm laughter and love.

Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts; kindness he'll use as he leads.
So, give him these gifts, hand him your hearts.

Honor his birth and you'll need no emeralds nor rubies, silver nor gold;
neither bright diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold.
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above;

You'll have laughter, sweet peace-filled laughter, simple warm laughter and love.
Simple warm laughter and love.

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

“Hope of the World”

UMH 178

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God’s gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy spirit unto us be given,
to heal earth’s wounds and end all bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light,
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ o’er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign.

*Benediction

Postlude

“Exalt His Name”

Charles Cooke

Worship Leaders: Naa Dromo Aryee, Rhianna Burke, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis,
Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Chancel Choir,
Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Advent Candle Lighting – The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries, by Lisa Hancock.
Common Prayer – *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, Abingdon Press, 2011, 1.
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