

# Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

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*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.*

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

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Prelude

Once He Came in Blessing - GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN  
Bohemian Brethren, *Ein New Gesengbuchlen, 1531*

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Greeting

\*Advent Candle Lighting

One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation: For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap, he will purify people and refine them like gold and silver until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

**Many: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

One: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*Light the second candle 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.

**\*Please stand in body or in spirit.**

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.

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

**Unto The Lord Be the Glory**

Unto the Lord be the glory. Great things He has done...

Great things He has done. Greater things He will do. Unto the Lord be the glory. Great things He has done...

**Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise)** *[Feel free to sing in either language]*

A-ye-yi Wurae' ----A-ye-yi Wurae'  
Ye yi W'ayε Na ye Ma Wo so!

*You own our praise! You own our praise!  
We praise you, Lord, and we lift you high!*

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets  
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.  
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH 230, v. 4

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!

**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 Anthem

Osoro Nka – Let the Heavens Speak

Newlove Annan

Let the Heavens speak and let the earth respond to what Jesus has done for his children,  
Let the Heavens rumble and let the earth respond to what Jesus has done for his children,  
He has saved us from the hands of the enemy  
He has been victorious for his children  
Let us always rejoice, let us sing to glorify what Jesus has done for his children.

\*Doxology

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.

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Anthem

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Mark A. Miller (cf. 20<sup>th</sup> c.)

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.

Born to save, born to heal, come, O Saviour, come.  
While we wait, while we pray, come, Saviour, come.  
Hope of all heaven and earth, come, Jesus, come.  
O Jesus, come.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone,  
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Born to save, born to heal, come, O Saviour, come.  
While we wait, while we pray, come, Saviour, come.  
Hope of all heaven and earth, come, Jesus, come.  
O Jesus, come.

\*Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

Message

Invitation to Dedication of Pledges

Dedication of 2025 Pledge Cards

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

\*Hymn

“Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

TFWS 2089

Wild and lone the prophet’s voice  
echoes through the desert still,  
calling us to make a choice,  
bidding us to do God’s will:  
“Turn from sin and be baptized;  
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
Quitting all the sin you prized,  
yield your life to God’s control.

“Bear the fruit repentance sows:  
lives of justice, truth, and love.  
Trust no other claim than those;  
set your heart on things above.  
Soon the Lord will come in power,  
burning clean the threshing floor:  
then will flames the chaff devour;  
wheat alone shall fill God’s store.”

With such preaching stark and bold  
John proclaimed salvation near,  
and his timeless warnings hold  
words of hope to all who hear.  
So we dare to journey on,  
led by faith through ways untrod,  
till we come at last like John  
to behold the Lamb of God.

\*Benediction

Postlude

Charles Callahan

Fughetta - Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Worship Leaders: Naa Dromo Aryee, Gifty Bentum-Asante, 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 – *Come, Let Us Adore Him: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy*, by Lisa Hancock,  
The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries  
Common Prayer – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 250.  
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