



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

November 27, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

All music used by permission. CCLI License #1325764; CCLI Streaming License #20116748

Liturgist: Connie Lynch

[CC] = closed-captioned

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

GTG #82

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free
From our sins and fears 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 thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.
Born to reign in us forever, 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.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Speaker 1: The season of Advent reminds us of the hope we have in the humanity of Jesus. God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven to be a person feeling pain, joy, loss, and love.

Speaker 2: Today we light the candle of **hope**, because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.

Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.

ADVENT SONG

“Kindle This Flame”

(Words: Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder, 2009; Music: Robert Jackson, 1888)

Kindle this flame of hope.
May it burn bright and true.
Lighting the way that is of God,
The journey we pursue.

God's realm is our desire,
Where peace and justice reign.
Heaven and earth combined as one,
When Christ shall come again.

*Words copyright © 2009 Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 304003, Nashville TN 37203. Website: www.umc.worship.org
Used by permission.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word was in the beginning with God. Through the Word, all things came into being.

The Word of God was a person, a flesh-and-bone human who lived and walked among us.

The Word is Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, Prince of Peace and Word Made Flesh.

Come together, children of God, and worship the one who dwelt among us.

Let us worship the Word through whom all things have life!

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, thank you for sending Jesus, your living Word, to be a human being in our midst. In this Advent season, we anticipate the moment when your son, Jesus, breathed his first human breath into the cold of night, when his mother heard his cries, and when his eyes beheld your beautiful world. As we gather for worship, we also breathe, we also cry out, and we also behold your beautiful world. Lead us into a deeper understanding of what it means to be human, created in your image and filled with life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Isaiah 2:1 – 5

ANTHEM

“Candles”

Ingrid Sampson
soloist

Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing

Strike a match, light a wick
The wax falls on the candlestick
Slowly, patiently into the night
Smaller, smaller, the candle gives its life

Just a little touch of fire, I'm gonna let it shine
I won't let no one blow it out, this little light of mine

**And you place them candles all around
You turn a dark room bright
Like stars in the sky
They're the universal light**

Did you know that the glow
Of a candle can be seen for miles
Through the calm of a dark winter sky
Just like the glimmer in a child's eye

When a baby is born
All we can do is hand them a light and give them a name
Then we leave it to them
What they do with their flame

Just a little touch of fire, that can see through the dark
We can trust that a child only needs a spark

(Chorus) -> Repeat 1st stanza

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, Let it shine

SCRIPTURE READING #2

Matthew 24:36 – 44

TIME WITH CHILDREN

“God With Us”:
Have Hope

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“**HAVE HOPE**”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG

“Let Us Build a House Where Love Can Dwell”

GTG #301

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of God shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face
Let us bring an end to fear and danger
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Word of God made flesh, you care about our earthly needs, physical resources, and tangible generosity. We give these offerings and gifts today as a physical response in worship. Our thoughts and prayers are vast and powerful, and we accompany them with this act of giving because you call us to love you with every part of ourselves. Bless these gifts to the glory of the Word of God. Amen.

AN AFFIRMATION OF HOPE

Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the hope of our faith. From our first breaths of life to our final moments before death, our bodies tell God's story of hope.

We are created to attach, to connect, and to live in community. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in the dependence of babies who know help is coming when they cry.

We are created to need one another. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in children who ask, explore, experiment, and wonder.

We are created to enjoy creation. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in teenagers who notice injustice, waste, and hypocrisy.

We are created to advocate for each other. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in middle age, when questions of identity and purpose find depth and discovery.

We are created to be distinctly and uniquely beloved. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in our older adults who pursue passions formed by decades of wisdom and experience.

We are created to attach, to connect, to live in community. This is the hope of our faith.

CLOSING SONG

“Soon and Very Soon”

GTG #384

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King (3X)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more crying there we are going to see the King (3X)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more dying there we are going to see the King (3X)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

Repeat verse 1

BENEDICTION

Friends and family of Christ, we find hope in the Word of God, who is a person. This hope was made flesh and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus the Christ. His spirit may be found among us today. May you go forth in hope and assurance, moving boldly in body and spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Isaiah 2:1-5

2:1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2:2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

2:3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

2:5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Matthew 24:36-44

24:36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

24:37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

24:39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

24:41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

24:42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

24:43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

