

ORDER OF WORSHIP

** Indicates, please stand if able.*

First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022. 9am.
Liturgist: Chuck Devendorf

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: *Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37*

If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2021. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

CONGREGATION: “Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v.1) #211

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The time is coming when the Lord shall pour his most special blessing on the earth.

P: We want to be ready for that time. What should we do?

L: Be vigilant. Keep your hearts, minds, and spirits open to God’s word.

P: Help us, O Lord, to be aware of all of your blessings.

L: Come, let us celebrate God’s love for us.

P: Make our hearts ready to receive your Gift of Love, O Lord. AMEN.

*OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* #92

CHILDREN’S TIME Paul Hoffman

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Even when we’re tired, Lord, we long to awaken to your presence. Even when we’re distracted, we yearn to be held spellbound by your power. Even when we’re lost and wander away from you, we hope to rest safely in the arms of your grace. Wake us from our sleep, O God; reveal your love and mercy, and grant us the peace of your redemption. In humble gratitude, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In God’s love, we find rest. In Christ’s grace, we receive forgiveness. In the Spirit’s presence, we know peace. Thanks be to God. AMEN.

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)* Rev. Shon

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

If this Advent is to be about more than going through the motions, then we must get ready for the Prince of Peace in new and radical ways. What can we do to signal our readiness for the coming of Christ into this very place? We can start with a total commitment of our resources and our lives to the cause of God’s peace in the world. When we give our financial gifts to the ministry of this church, the benefits travel widely through the connections of our denomination, but nowhere is the impact greater than in our own hearts. I invite you to use this time of offering as an opportunity to get ready for Christ’s arrival.

CELEBRATION OF GIVING

SPECIAL MUSIC *One Little Candle* (by Audrey Snyder) Choir

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” #95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor

SCRIPTURE Proverbs 3:1-10

*HYMN OF PRAISE *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise* #2031

MESSAGE *Honor the Lord with the firstfruits* Rev. Shon

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *We Sing to You, O God* #2001

*BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

POSTLUDE Matt Schluntz

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 3:1-9 (NIV)

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, ²for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. ³Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. ⁸This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. ⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRAYER FAMILIES: Pray for all those who need healing, or have health issues. Specifically, pray for Karen Dolsey and others. Also continue to pray for those in Ukraine and other areas of the world where people are suffering.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Four Sundays, Nov. 27th – Dec. 18th, at 10:30am

CELEBRATION OF GIVING: Pot Luck meal, December 4th.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASS 201: Postponed until Dec. 8 & 15, 5–6:30pm. Dinner will be served.

MISSION OUTREACH: Has learned that the Friends' Food Shelf needs canned vegetables, canned fruit and peanut butter. There is a box in the Gathering Area for your donations. The box will remain in the Gathering Area through December 4. This is a good season to share with those who need food items. Please be sure that your donations are not out-of-date.

VOLUNTEERS: wanted to ring a bell at Red Kettle Campaign by Salvation Army at Walmart or Hansen’s IGA, Nov. 19th -Dec. 24th. 9am-7pm. Contact the office if interested.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTIONS: meals served by the Pastor and Esther. @4:45-6pm

SCRIP CARDS: When you are thinking of ideas for gift giving or personal use, consider Scrip cards. Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

CHURCH CONFERENCE: December 4th, 4pm.

USHERS/GREETERS: Don & Charlene Galston

THIS WEEK AT THE CHURCH:

Sunday:	Advent Bible Study	10:30am		
Wednesday:	Prayer Group	10:00am	Wednesday Connections	4:45-6pm
	Pre-Confirmation	5-6pm	Youth	6-7pm
	Confirmation Class	7-8pm		
Saturday:	United Methodist Men	8:00am		

Black River Falls

United Methodist Church

Mission Statement:

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”

100 North Fourth Street, Black River Falls, WI. 54615

Phone: 715-284-4114 Office Hours: 8 am-4 pm

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