

ORDER OF WORSHIP

* Indicates, please stand if able.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022. 9am.

Liturgist: Tom Epps

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8 Barb Goldsmith

Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We’ve got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come. The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

CONGREGATION:

“Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v.2)

#211

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The prophet Isaiah declared that justice and peace shall come through the family of Jesse.

P: This justice shall be for all of creation.

L: Peace shall be established in all the world.

P: Get ready! Prepare for God’s peace to reign!

L: Blessed be God who does such wondrous things!

P: We give thanks to God for this time of healing and hope. AMEN.

*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

He Has Made Me Glad

#2270

CHILDREN'S TIME

Tom Epps

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves

changing, moving from your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have blocked your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though the darkness seems so deep, do not fear. God is with us. Repent! Turn your lives to God. God’s love is being poured out for you, always. AMEN

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Shon

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

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.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

Marvelous are the gifts of God’s grace. Let us respond with wonder and delight by offering our very selves back to God. With reverence and devotion, let us give generously of our gifts, that through our offerings, God’s promises might be fulfilled.

CELEBRATION OF GIVING

Roxie Hostrawser

SPECIAL MUSIC

African Noel by Dave and Jean Perry

Choir

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 6:17-21

*HYMN OF PRAISE

What Gift Can We Bring

#87

MESSAGE

Put Your Hope in God

Rev. Shon

HOLY COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN

People, Look East

#202

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Shon

POSTLUDE

Matt Schluntz

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:17-21 (NIV)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. ²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹ which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith. Grace be with you all.

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.

CELEBRATION OF GIVING POT LUCK: Today, after service.

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTIONS: meals served by Imelda Kelly

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Dec. 4th, 11th, 18th, at 10:30am at Keefe Room.

MISSION OUTREACH: Thank you for your generosity in providing canned fruit and vegetables for the Food Shelf. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by Shelf customers. If you have forgotten about the project, the food boxes will remain in the Gathering Area until Wednesday this week.

UMC of WISCONSIN’S VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION: Is putting together a group to go to Marion Alabama, February 4-12, 2023 to partner with a Marion group to do home repair. More information available on the mission outreach bulletin board. If interested contact Charlene Galston, 715-896-9055.

SCRIP CARDS: Are available for gift giving or personal use. See or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

CHURCH CONFERENCE: Today, 4pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: December 24, 4:00pm.

USHERS/GREETERS: Tom & Lois Epps

THIS WEEK AT THE CHURCH:

Sunday:	Advent Bible Study	10:30am		
Monday:	UWF	5:30pm		
Wednesday:	Wednesday Connections	10:00am	Pre-Con	5-6pm
	Youth (Wrapping Presents)	6:00pm	Confirmation Class	7-8pm
Thursday:	Discipleship Class 201	5-6:30pm		

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