



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
WORSHIP SERVICE

**HANGING OF
THE GREENS**

DECEMBER 3, 9:30 A.M.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
34 South Main Street
Rochester, NH 03867

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

THE CHURCH GATHERS

(The congregation will please stand as able
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

PRELUDE

Meditation on Advent Carols *Improvisation by Kevin G. Lindsay*

THE SERVICE BEGINS

***THE FIRST HYMN OF ADVENT**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

AURELIA

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you alright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight.
Oh, kindle, precious Savior, your lamp within my breast,
That all my glad behavior may show how I've been blest.**

**Your Zion strews before you green boughs and fairest palms;
And I, too, will adore you with Joyous songs and psalms;
My heart shall bloom forever for you with praises new
And from your name shall never withhold the honor due.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

RESPONSES FROM ISAIAH 2, 11 AND 62

How often have we imagined the ruler of glory far off?

God is not in some remote heaven but here.

We wait in silence for God's appearing.

Come, Holy One, to wipe away our tears.

Stretch out your hands and open your hearts.

Purify your lives from all deceit and falsehood.

God reaches out to comfort and cleanse.

We can sense God's hand of blessing resting on us.

The earth and all things in it are God's

The world and all its people belong to God.

We are God's people, called and saved by Christ.

We are the saints who share in Christ's ministry. (*)

***SUNG RESPONSE:**

Rejoice, O Congregation, the Lord is drawing near,

The advent of salvation-let signs of joy appear!

The Lord, to earth descending, will soon reveal his face.

To grant us life unending.

With joy make glad this place!

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

CHILDREN MESSAGE: (WHEN CRILDREN ARE PRESENT)

*(Following each passage of Scripture, the congregation will sing the BOLD FACED text,
the familiar tune is AZMON, (O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing)*

IN THE BEGINNING.....ISAIAH 64:8

**Make this place glad, this holy place
Where God's high praise is told.
The season's hues proclaim his grace
As signs of grace unfold.**

REFLECTION

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Advent Candles

ISAIAH 9:1A, 2

ANTHEM Lost in the Night

Words: Finnish Advent Carol; Music: *Arranged by Michael Burkhardt*

Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
Longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish:
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Must he be vainly awaiting the morrow?
Shall those who have no light let us borrow?
Giving no heed to his burden of sorrow?
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Sorrowing wanderers, in darkness yet dwelling,
Dawned has the day of the radiance excelling,
death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling.
Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!

Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming;
Rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,
Bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming.
Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

Words: Finnish folk song translated by Olav Lee 1859, altered 1960 © Augsburg Fortress Publishers P.O. Box 1209 Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209; Music: Michael Burkhardt © 1999, 1727 Larkin-Williams Road Fenton, MO 63026 Reprinted and recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296; all rights reserved.

REFLECTION

GREEN, OF COURSE

Wreath

ISAIAH 61:1A,3A

**Make this place glad, adorned with green,
With festive garlands hung.
So shall God's gifts of life be seen,
His praises gladly sung.**

REFLECTION

AND RED

Red Ribbons

ISAIAH 35:1-2A

**Make this place glad! Let brilliant red
The wondrous news proclaim:
For us the Savior's blood was shed-
Oh, praise his blessed name!**

REFLECTION

WHITE AND GOLD

Ornaments

ISAIAH 40: 9, 5A

**Make this place glad! Let gold and white
Proclaim our Savior's worth
Whose everlasting glory bright
Brings peace to all the earth.**

REFLECTION

ADVENT PARAMENTS

Purple Paraments

ISAIAH 61:10

**Make this place glad with Advent hues
That lifts our eyes on high.
The King is coming! Spread the news:
The Son of God draws nigh!**

REFLECTION

**Make this place glad! Let figures tell
How great the gift God gave:
For God's own son, Emmanuel,
Was born on earth to save!**

REFLECTION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: 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. (*Isaiah 64:1-3*)

Reader 2: 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"
(*Mark 13:35*).

**Congregation: 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.**

Reader 1: 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 candle of the Advent wreath.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Tune of "We Three Kings"*

**Light the Advent candle one; Now the waiting has begun;
The Lord of hope is on the way while we keep the light in us.
O candle of hope, burning bright;
shining in the cold winter night;
Hope of Jesus,
lead and guide us; fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Doxology

For Advent

Em G C D7 G D G C G

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em

here_____ be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003 Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

Offertory Prayer:

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *For Advent*

The Lord be with you....

And also with you.

Lift Up Your hearts.....

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.....

It is right to give our thanks and praise

..... *and all the company of heaven*

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus/Benedictus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

(Accompaniment at *United Methodist Hymnal*, No. 211)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, O God of glo - ry,
po - wer and might. Heav - en and earth are full, are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

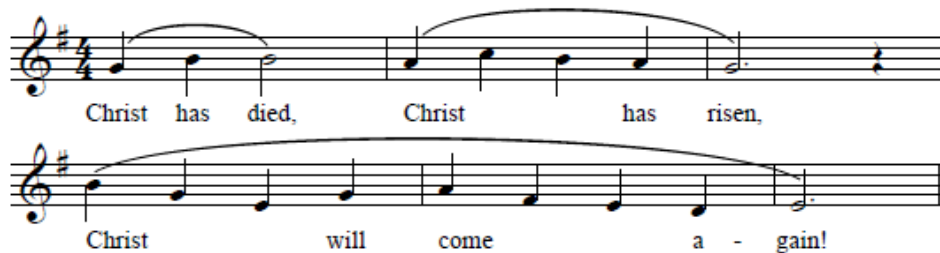
WORDS: Liturgy for Holy Communion; adapt. Taylor Burton-Edwards, 2006 VENI EMMANUEL
MUSIC: 15th century French. Irregular with Refrain

Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003,
Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003. Telephone (615) 340-7070; Website <http://www.umcworship.org>

..... *in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

Memorial Acclamation

(Accompaniment at *United Methodist Hymnal*, No. 211)



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..... *all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.*

Great Amen



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The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** *To the tune, DECK THE HALLS*

Hark, the Herald's voice entreating,

"In the wilderness, the way prepare!"

To all faithful souls repeating,

"In each heart and home, the way prepare!"

As a sign of preparation

boughs of green now are seen ev'rywhere,

Welcoming such glad salvation:

"In this holy house, the way prepare!"

Let the desert bloom, rejoicing:

In the wilderness, the way prepare.

Share the joy, your praises voicing:

In each heart and home, the way prepare.

For the Savior, long-awaited,

boughs of green now are seen ev'ry-where.

Be his advent celebrated:

In this holy house, the way prepare!

***Benediction**

Voluntary

Sortie on a French Noel *Improvisation by Kevin G. Lindsay*

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist: Erin Saucier
Video & Sound: Alex Wilderman
Altar Flowers: In Loving Memory of my Mother Alice Brooks
& In Celebration of Jonathan Murphy's 16th Birthday given by Gerry and Jim McDevitt
Cover Image: *Generated "In-House" by Pastor Ho-Soon Han.*

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Looking Ahead

Readings for December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 / Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15 / Mark 1:1-8

For more about our ministries please visit our website

<http://www.firstumcrochester.org/>

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