

November 29, 2020

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

*Prayerfully prepare for the Worship Service.*

Prelude

“Comfort, Comfort, My People” ~P. Manz

Call to Worship

Let's deck the halls with the hope of the coming King!

**We once walked in darkness.**

Now we see a great light!

**Even in times of uncertainty**

We can lift our hands in praise.

**Let's deck the halls with hope!**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Chorus

“Until Jesus Comes”

Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes, I'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes. (repeat)

Words & Music: Dean McIntyre © 2005 The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church CCLI 11406300

Opening Prayer

**Holy One, we gather this day awaiting the promise you offer to us. Turn our eyes to witness you at work among us. Remind us in places and spaces of darkness that you are light. Slow our pace and help us to ready our hearts as we continue to wait in hope for your coming glory in our world. Amen.**

Hymn

“View the Present through the Promise”

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again

Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again

Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing

In the hope past hope's conceiving, Christ will come again

Prove the present with the promise, Christ will come again

Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again

Let your loving and your giving, and your justice and forgiving

Be a sign to all the living, Christ will come again

Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again

Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again

Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating

To the advent you are waiting, Christ will come again

Words: Thomas H. Troeger; Music: Traditional Welsh melody; harm. by Luther Orlando Emerson © 1994 Oxford University Press CCLI 11406300

The Nativity

Gabrielle Irizarry

Stewardship Moment: Selah

Offering

*“God is always at work, in the world and in each of us. This day we are called to trust in the hope the Christ child offers in the midst of uncertain spaces and times. Our offerings are a sign of our trusting hope in all that God is doing in our world.”*

Offertory Prayer

**Gracious God, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us. Help us to understand and trust in the kingdom you have begun building. May all we give this day further its reach in our world. Amen.**

## Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice. As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor. Because every boot of the thundering warriors, and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire. A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of heavenly forces will do this.

L: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

"Like a Child"

St. Paul Quartet

Sermon

"Deck the Halls with Hope"

Pastor Geralda Aldajuste

Call to Discipleship

### Sending Forth

Hymn

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

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 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.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744; Music: Rowland H. Richard, 1830; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906 CCLI 11406300

Benediction

Response to Benediction

**Always remember Jesus, Jesus, always remember Jesus, Jesus; always keep Him on your mind.**

Words: Andrae Crouch; Music: Andrae Crouch. Evelyn Simpson-Cureton © Crouch Music (ASCAP) CCLI 11406300

Postlude

"O Blessed Emmanuel" ~ Bach

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

- ♥ **Church Council** will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, December 1 at 7 pm. The access link will be sent out.
- ♥ **All Committee Chairs/Group Leaders:** Please submit your 2021 budget requests to the Finance Committee by December 10.
- ♥ It's not too late to send in your 2021 financial **Commitment/Pledge Card!** Thanks!
- ♥ **Please Note:** The weekly sermon will be posted on **Sermon by Phone** on *Monday mornings*. Call 609-212-0325 anytime to listen to the recording. Let us know what you think!