

November 28, 2021
Sanctuary Worship, 11:00AM

Welcome to worship today!

Please remember to follow the directions of our ushers and wear appropriate facemasks at all times inside the building.



*First Sunday
of Advent*

Call to Worship

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.

UMH 207, Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé. © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Prayer

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.

*UMH 196. Charles Wesley, Rowland H. Prichard; harm. from *The English Hymnal*.*

Lighting Our First Candle

R.E. & Beth Cobb

You speak: Please respond with the bolded sentences in your order of service.

Advent is a time to hear again of God's redeeming work.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Advent is a time to hear again of God's reconciling love

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Advent is a time to hear again of God's unmerited grace

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Advent is a time to hear again of our ultimate hope.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

God Is Near

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

The musical score is written on four staves of music in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with the word 'Lis-ten'. The second staff begins with 'tell-ing'. The third staff begins with 'world'. The fourth staff begins with 'man-u-el'. The music ends with a double bar line.

Lis-ten to the an-gels, hear the mes-sage they bring;
tell-ing the news of a com-ing King; fill-ing the
world with hope and good cheer. Je-sus, Em-
man-u-el, God is near.

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Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

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.

Choir Anthem – *I Hear the Prophet Callin'*

I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord."
I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord."
I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord."
I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord."
Come and make straight the way in the desert, a highway for our God.
Come and make straight the way in the desert.
Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord.
I hear Isaiah callin', "Fear not, your God will come."
I hear Isaiah callin', "Fear not, your God will come."
Then the eyes of the blind be opened. The ears of the deaf will hear.
And then the mute will shout for joy. The mute will shout for joy, shout for joy.
They'll be shouting for joy. They'll be shouting for joy.
And the desert will be joyful and blossom as a rose.
And the desert will be joyful and blossom as a rose.
We shall rejoice with joy and singing and see the glory of God.

We shall rejoice with joy and singing and see the glory of God, and see the glory of God.
I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord."
I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord."

Pepper Choplin. © 2008 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI# 1374588.

Scripture Lesson – Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, Luke 3: 2b-6 (CEB)

Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord! Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

During the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth.

All humanity will see God's salvation."

Message – God Speaks: Hear

Celebrating Holy Communion

Hymn – People Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowing of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today; Love, the Guest, in on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, on more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today; Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today; Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today; Love, the Lord, is on the way.

UMH 202. Eleanor Farjeon; trad. French carol, harm. by Martin Shaw.

Blessing & Sending Out

Outside to Share Peace

What to know this week ...

Please remember that our 4th quarter special offering will help change the world by fostering independence in orphan children in Africa and India! Please mark your special offering - either by marking the envelope for ZOE or writing ZOE on the memo line of your check. Checks should be made payable to St. James!

In keeping with our theme for Advent: God Is Near, we have daily scripture readings, a song to click and play/sing, and a prayer focus for the week. Please use this season to draw near to God, and enjoy the scripture and music!

Devotions are posted a week at a time on the church website: www.stjumc.us.

Get involved! We have multiple ways for you to get connected and volunteer at St. James! Please consider this list of volunteer sign-ups and help where you feel called:

Advent Candle Lighters at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-advent

2021 Angel Tree at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-angel1

December 11 Produce Packing at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-food

December 19 Live Nativity Cast & Crew at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-live21

Food Pantry Needs for Advent: canned beans (pintos, black beans, etc.), spaghetti sauce (plastic jar or can), 1 lb. spaghetti, jelly (plastic container), 2 lb. rice (usually available at Dollar Tree), boxed cereal, canned pasta meals like beefaroni, boxed mac & cheese