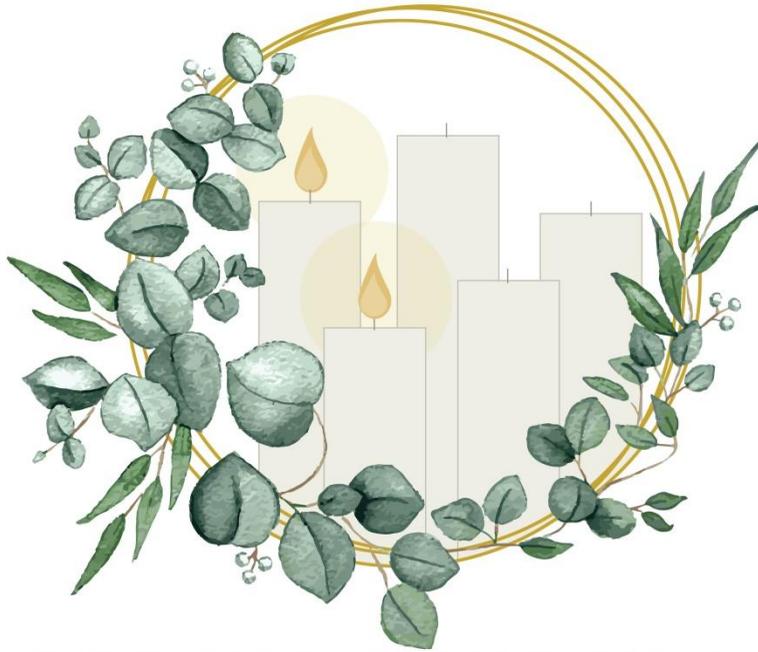




St. James United Methodist Church
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SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

December 4, 2022
11:00 AM Sanctuary Worship

Welcome to the promise of Advent: Amid barren trees, Isaiah announces spring growth — a “shoot” representing new life in Jesus (11:1).

Prelude

We invite you to enjoy the prelude as a time of quiet reflection, and to individually prepare your hearts for the worship of God.

Advent Reading

Brian and Jennifer Hodge, Ben & Alex Sherman

Leader: "On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious." We are the followers of that root of Jesse that Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the One who created us. We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising towards God's promise. But we also light them as a signal to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work in the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our prayer.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Hymn – *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

UMH 209

Doxology

During Advent, our Doxology text will be sung to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Sharing Peace

Prayer Time and Lord's Prayer

(Please use the prayer cards in the pews to share your prayer concerns. You may place prayer cards in the prayer box near the altar rail.)

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.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 3: 1-12

NRSV pew Bible, pp.2-3 (NT)

Choir Anthem – *Will We Know Him?*

Are we ready for the Babe of Bethlehem to be born in a lowly stall?

Are we ready to greet the tiny little King who will come to save us all?

Are we ready for the star of Bethlehem to appear in the winter sky?
Are we ready to follow anywhere it leads, and let its light fill all our lives?

Refrain: Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory; once again proclaim the wondrous story.
God will send His one true Son...but will we know Him when He comes?

Are we ready for the song of Bethlehem to declare our Savior's birth?
Are we ready to join the angels as they sing and spread the news to all on earth?
(Refrain)

Are we ready for the Babe of Bethlehem, God's true and promised Son?
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King...and will we know Him when He comes?

Don Besig & Nancy Price ©1987 Harold Flammer, Inc./Shawnee Press.

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10

NRSV pew Bible, pp. 602-603 (OT)

Message – Standing in Hope and Peace

Pastor Dan Baer

Hymn – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

UMH 216

Blessing & Sending Out

Out to Serve in the World

*The flowers in worship today are given to the glory of God by Diane Lipscomb
in honor of her family, for their love and support.*

Calendar this week:

TODAY, 12/4	Board of Trustees, 4PM in Room 12 St. James Youth, 4PM in Montague Hall NA, 7PM in Saints Hall
Mon, 12/5	Elijah Bible Study, 10:30AM in the Chapel GS Troop 4331, 6:30PM in Montague Hall UMM, 7PM in Carson Hall
Tues, 12/6	Library Committee, 9AM in the Library Staff Meeting, 10AM in Room 12 GS Troop 4491, 6:30PM in Montague Hall
Wed, 12/7	Choir Rehearsal, 6PM in Sanctuary
Thurs, 12/8	Disney on Ice Concessions, 5PM at PNC Arena – volunteers still needed* Continuing Strummers, 6PM in Music Room Common Thread Band Rehearsal, 7PM in Carson Hall
Sat, 12/10	Rhodes Family Gathering, 12-5PM in Carson Hall
Sunday, 12/11	Choir Christmas Cantata, 11AM in Sanctuary

What to know this week...

Bread Ministry location: We've officially moved the bread to the hallway counter behind Carson Hall on Sunday mornings. Please use gloves to take whatever you like, and leave your donations in the marked box on the counter. Thanks for supporting the Bread Ministry!

2022 Angel Tree: Thank you to everyone who signed out angels last week! Our Angel Tree this year will support children in foster care. Presents should be wrapped with receipts enclosed and returned to the church no later than December 15. Please contact Anita Robinson Christmas (aprchristmas@yahoo.com or 919-760-9876) if you have any questions.

Christmas Eve Luminaries: The United Women of Faith (formerly UMW) will again be selling luminaries to decorate St. James' walkways 4:30-8:30PM on Christmas Eve. Luminaries cost \$3 each any may be purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones. Deadline to order is December 18; order forms are available in the weekly email, on the Welcome Center counter, and in the back of both worship spaces. Completed orders can be dropped into worship offering plates or the office door-drop with payment made to UMW.

Children's Discipleship notice: The Children's Discipleship class will not meet on Dec. 18 or 25.

***Volunteer to work concessions at PNC Arena!** This is a fundraiser for our church and an opportunity to be in fellowship with church friends! All concessions volunteers will need to wear the new sapphire blue St. James UMC t-shirt. To see the schedule of events and volunteer, use the link <http://tinyurl.com/PNCVolunteers>.

Volunteers needed for the Living Nativity: The 2022 Living Nativity will be held Sunday, December 18, 4-6PM. This walk-through event has become very popular with the community, and we need lots of help to make it great! Sign-ups for cast and crew are open now: go to <http://tinyurl.com/2022LiveNativity> to sign up!

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Times: We will offer 2 Christmas Eve worship services: the 5PM Common Thread service will be held in Carson Hall, with options to sit in cars or on the patio (weather permitting) for those who choose to do so. The 7PM traditional service will be held in the sanctuary. Both services will feature Holy Communion and candle-lighting. On Christmas Day, we will offer one combined service at 10AM in the sanctuary, with no discipleship classes meeting that Sunday.

Military Ministry donations still needed: Thanks to everyone who has already contributed; we humbly say a huge THANK YOU for the support. We still need books of Forever stamps, blank note cards, and medium/large package envelopes. The collection box remains on the counter of the Welcome Center off the lobby. We also need updated names/ mailing addresses for those in the military to receive packages. Please send that info to therigdasyahoo.com and voverton1@gmail.com.