



Welcome to Christ Church!

1221 Quarrier Street † Charleston, WV 25301

www.ccumwv.org

Christ Church United Methodist is a Welcoming Community of Faith, Hope and Love Serving our Neighbors and the World as the Hands of Christ.

Sunday, December 1, 2024

11:00am

1st Sunday of Advent

† - Those who are able, please stand

VOLUNTARY

"Once He Came in Blessing".....arr. Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*"While We Are Waiting, Come".....Don Cason
While we are waiting, come. Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel. With power and glory, come, Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel. Come, Savior, quickly come, Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel.*

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† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The story begins with hope for a child

A child, born like us;

A child who will lead us,

A child who will inspire us.

A child who will be our living hope.

(The first Advent candle is lit.)

On this first Sunday of Advent,

we give thanks for the coming child, Jesus the Christ.

On this first Sunday in Advent,

let us worship God, the Alpha and Omega.

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE #211 (Verses 1-4, 7)

UM Hymnal

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".....VENI EMMANUEL

† GATHERING PRAYER

God our caring Father,

you who gave your beloved Son to ransom all people,

see our human fears and love us anyway.

Guide us through this season with quiet, glad anticipation.

Help us to pay attention to the poor and needy,

and to the lonely among us.

Give us a spirit of reflection,

patience with each other,

and hearts brimming with thanks.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. You have chosen to be a part of the Body of Christ that has been worshipping together for over 220 years. Welcome! We are glad you are here.

The 11:00am service is broadcast on 1240AM and 95.7FM. The livestream of our service can be found on the Christ Church Facebook page, which is also accessible from our church website: www.ccumwv.org.

All songbooks are located between the seats. Song texts will also be projected on the screens.

Congregational responses are in ***bold italic***.

Please see an usher if you need a hearing assist.

Today is the First Sunday in Advent, which also marks the beginning of a new Christian year. We begin this 'new year' with the story of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, which we will remember and celebrate for the next four weeks. The liturgical color for Advent is blue.

WORSHIP NOTES

The cross standing behind the communion table is called a "Tau Cross." The Tau Cross, also known as the Cross of St. Anthony of Egypt, was used by early Christians because many believed that a Tau Cross was used at the crucifixion of Jesus. It is in the shape of the letter 'T', which is the final letter in the Hebrew alphabet and symbolizes the revealed word of God made manifest in Jesus Christ.

The Tau Cross is also a symbol of preparation and is often displayed during Advent. The three colors of our Tau Cross are red, representing the crucifixion of Jesus, purple, representing the season of Lent (another time of preparation) and blue for the season of Advent.

The use of the Advent wreath existed long before Christianity. However, it became popular in Christian communities beginning in the 16th century. The wreath is a circle that has no beginning or ending and represents a crown. Evergreens are used as a symbol of life during hard winter months. The Advent Wreath was first used in the United States in the 1930's and symbolizes the 4 weeks of waiting leading to Christmas Day. As the days get shorter, more light is added to the wreath in anticipation of the coming of Christ.

Hymn #211 dates back to the 9th c when it was sung during the Advent vespers in the monasteries throughout Europe as a chant. The metrical version we sing today dates from the 12th c. The tune, on the other hand, only dates back to the 15th c. and is based on a French melody. The version we sing today was composed in 1854 by Thomas Helmore, who during the 19th c., was instrumental in the return of chant to the churches of England.

† THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share in signs of reconciliation and peace.

† ADVENT RESPONSE AND GLORIA PATRI

REGENT SQUARE

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.**

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

**Glory be to God in heaven, songs of joy and peace we bring.
Thankful hearts and voices raising, to creation's Lord we sing:
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Father, Spirit, Christ our King!**

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MOMENTS WITH THE CHILDREN

SHARING OF OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

ADVENT PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

"For You, My God, I Wait".....Adam Tice/David Ward



For you, my God, I wait with hope born



of the Word. Like sleep - less ones who long to



dream, I wait and call my Lord.

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SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

"Comfort, Comfort".....arr. John Ferguson

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever! For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way! Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him! Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign! For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

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WORSHIP NOTES

The text to the Advent Response was written in 1758 by Rev. Charles Wesley. It is a text that talks about the second coming of Christ, which is also a theme during the Advent season. The Gloria Patri is a hymn of praise and is Trinitarian in nature praising God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The tune, REGENT SQUARE, was composed by self-taught British musician, organist and composer, Henry Smart. Regent Square was the location of St. Philip's Presbyterian Church where Henry Smart was organist from 1839-1844. (The church was destroyed during the Blitz in World War II.)

The text to the anthem is based on Isaiah 40: 1-5 written in 1671 by Lutheran theologian, Rev. Johann Olearius. It is a text about the coming of the Messiah and was translated into English in 1862 by Catherine Winkworth, who spent much of her lifetime translating hymn texts from German to English. The tune was composed by 16th c. French musician, Louis Bourgeois for Psalm 42 in the Genevan Psalter. John Ferguson is a retired Professor of Music from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN.

The Doxology is a hymn of praise to God that is Trinitarian in nature praising God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The text is an altered version of the original text from 1674 and was written in 1974 by Rev. Dr. Gilbert Vieira, United Methodist minister in the San Francisco Bay area of California. The tune is a German Catholic tune dating from 1623. The harmony was created in 1906 by the great British composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams.

† GOSPEL LESSON - *"The Coming of the Son of Man"*

Luke 21: 25-36

Bible, pg. 85

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - *"Anticipating God's Promise"*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias

OFFERING OF OUR TIME, TALENTS, GIFTS, SERVICE AND WITNESS

† OFFERTORY

"Meditation on CRANHAM"arr. Paul Fey

† DOXOLOGY #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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† OFFERTORY PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(We will be singing the sung responses as found on pg. 17 in the UM Hymnal.)

THE 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.***

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Keep the Feast".....Peterson/Shive

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

WORSHIP NOTES

The text to the Hymn of Response is an Advent text written in 1653 by German theologian and Roman Catholic priest, Father Paul Gerhardt, who is considered Germany's greatest hymn writer. It was translated into English in 1863 by Catherine Winkworth. The tune, ELLACOMBE, is a German Roman Catholic that first appeared in print in 1784 in a book used in the chapel of the Duke of Württemberg. The tune is named after a village in Devonshire, England after it was placed in the British hymn book, Hymns Ancient and Modern.

† HYMN OF RESPONSE

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You".....ELLACOMBE

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?

Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!

O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,

To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

2. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;

Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.

O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace

In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

3. You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,

To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.

In patient expectation we live for that great day

When your renewed creation your glory shall display.

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† BENEDICTION

† CHORAL RESPONSE

"To God the Father".....PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit Three-in-One, praise, honour, might, and glory me from age to age eternally. Amen.

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† VOLUNTARY

"Variation on SLEEPER'S AWAKE".....arr. Robert Powell