

# Wesley United Methodist Church

*November 29, 2020*



**Gretchen Nelson**, Pastor  
**Sylvia Krisnow**, Secretary

**Jerry Sowers**, Minister of Music  
**Cynthia Campbell**, Accompanist

**Members of Wesley**, Ministers

**The Vision of Wesley United Methodist Church is to serve  
all people with the love of Jesus Christ.**

## Order of Worship – 10:00 A.M. Service Gather and Spend Time with God Together

### Preparing your home for Worship

*Create a space that brings reminders of God's presence and a sense of waiting during Advent. Candle. Greenery. Advent wreath/candles. Bible. Stable. Make it a prayerful place. Ask everyone in your home for suggestions. Before the gathering time: play music, turn off devices not used for worship, start to pay attention to your breath as a gift from God. Pray. Worshiping together as house churches in the model of Acts 2:46-47.*

### Welcome and Orientation

*Centering our attention on God's Holy Presence.*

### Gathering Centering Music

*Let the music fill your hearts and spirits becoming aware of God welcoming you in love.*

### Crossing the Threshold

This Advent, we are looking to hear words of comfort, of challenge and of good news. The prophet Isaiah and the four Gospel authors were writing in a time when people needed desperately to hear all of these as well. This first week, Isaiah, the prophet, and Mark—the Gospel writer who published first—reassure the people that good news is beginning and yet they both say, “Make yourself ready! Raise your voices, change your hearts, get ready to be transformed, because now is the time.” Let us embrace hope that we can do what needs to be done to bring more light into the world.

### Advent Candle Lighting

(The Threshold Music begins and a soloist begins singing)

I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,  
even when, even when it's not shining.

[congregation joins] I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,  
even when, even when it's not shining.

[Piano continues to underscore as the Family Reader says each line in repetition.]

**Reader one:** The place without light

**Reader two:** The place without light

**Reader one:** The depth of night

**Reader two:** The depth of night

**Reader one:** The pit of unknowing

**Reader two:** The pit of unknowing

[Piano continues, congregation ooo's to the tune as the prayer is prayed by reader. Family reading from home online, lights the first candle on the phrase “ignite the flame...” as candle is also lit in the sanctuary.]

### Advent Prayer

**One:** Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of untiring hope. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—even when our view is obscured by clouds of doubt, ignite the flame of hope within us,

**Many: ... that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.**

[Congregation sings in unison]  
I believe in the sun,  
I believe in the sun,  
even when... even when...  
it's not shining.

[accompaniment trails into silence... ]

**One:** Help us face this bleak night of the soul and embrace it as a womb of rebirth. Amen.

**Pastor:** You are invited to light your Advent 1 candle of Hope to shine as many houses worshipping together.

### Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH 196

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Come, Thou long expected Jesus     | Born Thy people to deliver,      |
| Born to set Thy people free;       | Born a child and yet a King,     |
| From our fears and sins release    | Born to reign in us forever,     |
| us, Let us find our rest in Thee.  | Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  |
| Israel's strength and consolation, | By Thine own eternal Spirit      |
| Hope of all the earth Thou art;    | Rule in all our hearts alone;    |
| Dear desire of every nation,       | By Thine all sufficient merit,   |
| Joy of every longing heart.        | Raise us to Thy glorious throne. |

### Glory Sightings

*Witness to God's faithfulness and love in the world. You are invited to share where have you witnessed good news. Raise a hand, write in the Facebook Comments, add into Zoom Chat.*

### Sharing Christ's Peace

*During this season of Spacial Distancing, practicing Christ's Peace is a witness of God's shalom. Cross your arms or press hands together at your heart, bow to your copanion while keeping eye contact. Offer this similar greeting "The Christ in me greets the Christ in you. Abundant peace." Use your social media and phones to send Christ's peace into the world.*

## Proclaim

### First Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

### Special Music

**Meditation**   **Hope For Tomorrow**   *Pastor Gretchen Nelson*

## We Respond

### Litany of Belief

**Reader:** In times when humanity disappoints, perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors disappoint, it is an important act to call out, name and claim, the consequences of our wrongs. And in times of distress it is a prophetic act to call out, name and claim, our belief in the hope for tomorrow. Hear these, our own statements of belief:

**Reader:** I believe that worry of displeasing others has stalled efforts at transformation AND

**People:** I believe that we can look deeper and hold onto the things that we have in common.

**Reader:** I believe that our fear of doubt makes us refrain from asking tough questions AND

**People:** I believe that asking tough questions in the face of injustice is faithful.

**ALL:** We believe, even when we are discouraged.

We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for righting relationships will offer us hope!

### Prayers in Stillness

*As we share in prayer today you are encouraged to pray aloud your joys and concerns. Complete your prayer with "Lord, in your mercy" and all the people respond "Hear our prayer". (You are invited to write your prayers in the Chat or Comment feed. Also please email them to the church office so the Prayer Team may continue to pray with you during the week).*

**Pastor:** I invite you to get in a comfortable position of rest.

*I invite you to get as quiet and still as you can.*

*I invite you to a deep breath and a deep listening posture—perhaps eyes closed or fixed on a candle—as we prepare for a time of prayer.*

*[pause for breath prayer]*

*The gentle pull of God*

*is often lost amidst the rush*

*of all the obligations which lay a claim on us.*

*Yet just beyond the frantic pace*

*our restless feet have trod*

*lie deep still pools of quietness—*

*the dwelling place of God.*

*Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air I breathe  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Free me to receive*

*O take me to that secret place  
where lost in wonder and in awe,  
the moment comes and I rejoice  
to be and be with God.*

*Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air I breathe  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Free me to receive*

*[the prayers of the people continue ... ]*

### **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.**

### **Offering – Opportunities to fill life with hope**

*Giving is a spiritual practice of our faith. Sharing God's Good News through mission and ministry continue even as we are physically separate. Continue your covenant tithe, pledge, and offering with God. Consider ways to be in service with your gifts and skills as we maintain these healthy practices.*

### **Musical Offering**

*During this musical act of praise, you are encouraged to praise God with your gifts. Wherever you are—lift up your hands, sway, dance, let the spirit of God move you (on screen or off).*

### **Doxology (to the tune of “Give Thanks” – FWS 2036)**

Believe, with a hopeful heart!  
Believe, and shine your light!  
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!

And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”  
let the poor say, “I am rich  
because of what our God has done for us.”  
Believe!

## Thanksgiving and Communion

### Invitation to Christ's Table

#### The Great Thanksgiving for Advent

**Song:** "Deeper Love" by Jim Burklo

**Tune:** O Waly Waly (Welsh folk tune)

(tune played through once, then the accompaniment underscores the prayer responses)

**Pastor:** Our God, Song of the Ages, be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Pastor:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to raise our voices with you,  
tuning ourselves to you, creator of heaven and earth.

You filled the night of creation with music and light,  
setting in motion the rhythms  
of sunrise and sunset, of sound and silence.  
You formed within us your love song  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

Sometimes our voices are choked off  
and we cannot find your melody.  
But you keep the bass line humming,  
waiting for us to rejoin the chorus.  
You show up in the worst of times  
offering us the way to freedom in you.  
Your voice breaks through in prophets whose songs  
wake us up to the kin-dom you desire.

And so,  
with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL:** [sung]

**Now Mary sings her birthing song  
Till every voice can sing along  
And voices weak will rise up strong  
Her choir is one where all belong**

**Pastor:** Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Breaking forth into light from the blessed darkness of a womb,  
he brought light that illumined a path  
so we could see our way to more beloved community.

Your Spirit anointed him to raise his voice...  
to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners  
and invited us to do this too.

Born into a world of suffering, he suffered.  
Born into a world of senseless death, he died.  
Born into a world that needed hope, he rose,  
delivering us and proclaiming light and life  
the triumphal coda of life's song.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,  
he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.  
Holy Luminary, lighting our way.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

**ALL:** [sung]

For deeper love we share the bread  
I won't be full till all are fed  
Till every soul has home and bed  
The rest of us can't move ahead

**Pastor:** When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."



**ALL:** [sung]

For deeper love we share the wine  
I cannot taste the love divine  
Till every soul has walked the line  
And you've had yours like I've had mine

**Pastor:** And so,  
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**ALL:** Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

**Pastor:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.  
Make them be for us your love and light  
so that our hearts may be broken open for the world  
and our lives poured out in service.

**ALL:** [sung]

No one is saved till all are healed  
As Jesus on the Mount revealed  
Your life and mine forever sealed  
Just like the lilies of the field

**Pastor:** By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world.  
Mix our voices in harmony with each other  
until we sit at the same table  
and sing in the same choir  
in your Kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

Through your Son Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.

Amen.

**ALL:** [sung ]

We follow where the Christ has led  
To table that for all is spread  
And no one's sitting at the head  
But deeper love in wine and bread

## Sharing and Receiving the Bread and Cup

### Praise God

#### Carol of Resistance “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
their old, familiar carols play,  
and wild and sweet  
the words repeat  
of peace on earth, good-will to all!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
the belfries of all Christendom  
had rolled along  
the unbroken song  
of peace on earth, good-will to all!

“And in despair, I bowed my head:  
‘there is no peace on earth,’ I said,  
‘for hate is strong and mocks the song  
of peace on earth, good will to all.’”

“Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, nor doth [not] sleep;  
the wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
with peace on earth, good will to all.”

#### Blessing

**Pastor:** You are invited to pick up this week’s candle and prepare to take it to reside in your Advent wreath. We wait for justice,

**People: but we do not wait to work for change;**

**Pastor:** We wait for restored health

**People: but we do not wait to work to heal;**

**Pastor:** We wait for wholeness

**People: but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;**

**Pastor:** We wait for peace

**People: but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.**

**Pastor:** And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news  
that the sun still shines even on cloudy days,  
fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope.

Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that hope alive in  
you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.  
Let’s Raise our voices and proclaim...

**ALL: “do not be afraid!”  
“do not be afraid!”**

Prayers and liturgies today can be found:; *UM Book of Worship*. All music used within CCLI#752546  
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## Remember in our Prayers



**Our Christian Sympathy goes to** Libby Wright and family on the death of her Granddaughter Anna-Kate.

**Concerns:** Fred Hemmerly, Bob and Bonnie, Kimberly Morris, Patty Bumgarner, Sheree, Crystal Radford, Tommy, Ron, Carol Beard, Marty Ammerman, Joann Walsh, Cameron Glandon, Michael Dunkailo, Grace Burnell, Dianna, Bruce and Shanon, Camden, Dylan, Freta Lamb, Joella, Joseph Gilday, Abby, Amber Stinson, Bill Mee, Zach Perkins, Caleb Coates, Ernie and Carolyn Taylor, Lynnette Scalzi, Zeb Cope, Nancy Bellan, Ray Krisnow, Ramona Gemeinhart, Dennis Rosier, Pete Stone, Karen Bowers, Janice Crumpton, Jeff Birdsall, Kevin Lykins, Joe Ames, Nina Winfree, Barbara Greene, Ben Stanley, Susan Nichols, Jo and Buddy Carlisle.

**Other Concerns:** All teachers and students returning to the classroom, The Coronavirus, the tragedies occurring in our country and around the world; police officers and first responders; all who are grieving; our seniors; our church and the entire United Methodist Church; recovery from addiction; young adults needing a closer walk with Christ; those awaiting test results; healing for those in pain.

**Nation and World:** Our nation, leaders, military, deployed troops and their families.

**Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:** Myanmar, Thailand

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** 12/05 Ray Krisnow

***We at Wesley are glad you are here and invite you to worship with us often. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider Wesley. Pastor Gretchen would be happy to talk with you about it.***

## Announcements

### **United Methodist Student Day is today!**

Your generous gift supports our students. When you give, you help provide for over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the church. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and ministry. To give online: [UMCgiving.org/giveUMSD](http://UMCgiving.org/giveUMSD).

**Celebrate Christ’s coming into the world through an additional financial gift this Holy Season.** Celebrate God’s extravagant generosity on Giving Tuesday.

Total Budget Covenant for 2020: \$253,533.00

Received as of 22 November 2020: \$217,551.37

**Total Funds needed to meet all 2020 obligations: \$35,981.63 by December 31st**

You are a gift; thank you for all you do to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to life. Together we can shine the brilliant light of Christ as we live throughout the year.

**Offering Envelopes** for 2021 are in the hallway outside the sanctuary. Please pick yours up when you have an opportunity. Contact person: Kathann Montague

**Counters for November**~29th: Clyde Gumbert/Amy Stanley

**H.E.L.P. Food Pantry Update:** Thank you for your continued donations to the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry. They are grateful for all nonperishable food. **Current needs are:** cereal, fruit cups and/or canned fruit. Donations are delivered monthly. Contact person: Sherry Moore

**Advent Prayer** on Facebook Live, daily, 8:00 AM.

**Scriptures for December 6:** Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8

**Week of 29 November 2020**

|        |    |   |
|--------|----|---|
| Sun.   | 29 | 10:00 AM <b>Live Stream Worship Service – Zoom or Facebook</b><br>11:30 AM <b>Outdoor In-Person Worship – Picnic Shelter</b>        |
| Mon.   | 30 | 8:00 AM <b>Advent Prayer Time –Facebook</b>   |
| Tues.  | 01 | 7:00 PM <b>Prayer Time –Facebook</b>  |
| Wed.   | 02 | 7:00 PM <b>Prayer Time –Facebook</b>  |
| Thurs. | 03 | 7:00 PM <b>Prayer Time - Facebook</b>   |
| Fri.   | 06 | 7:00 PM <b>Prayer Time –Facebook</b>  |
| Sun.   | 06 | 10:00 AM <b>Live Stream Sunday Worship Service – Zoom or Facebook</b><br>11:30 AM <b>Outdoor In-Person Worship – Picnic Shelter</b> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b><br>November 15: | 28 on Zoom<br>29 on Facebook<br>17 In-Person Outdoor |
| <b>OFFERING</b>                          | Received: \$1,524.00– Needed each week: \$4,876.00   |

**Secretary Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

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