

SATURDAY WORSHIP
November 28, 2009
The First Saturday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC:

- *Jon Whitmore at the Organ*
- *“Wounded World that Cries for Healing” #2177 TFWS*
 - *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” #216 UMH*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

LEADER: *Christians around the world begin this day to await the advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God’s love.*

PEOPLE: **WE GATHER AS A PEOPLE OF HOPE.**

LEADER: *Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation of a miracle that has been repeated for hundreds of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.*

PEOPLE: **OUR HOPE SPRINGS ANEW, FROM AN ANCIENT VISION.**

LEADER: *As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the promise and the great gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.*

PEOPLE: **WE GATHER EXPECTANTLY, JOYFULLY, AND WITH DEEP COMMITMENT, FOR WE HAVE HEARD THAT A SPECIAL CHILD IS TO COME, THAT GOD IS TO BE AMONG US, AND THAT SOON WE WILL SEE A NEW CREATION ON EARTH. WE ARE A PEOPLE OF HOPE.**

LEADER: *Let us sing together the first verse of “Light the Advent Candle” (#2090 TFWS) as the first Advent candle is lit: **

INVOCATION

Gentle God, you know that for us, this is a season of hopes and fears. We are caught up in our excitement and plans. We worry whether everything will get done, and whether our relationships will blossom, bend, or break in the stress of the season. Slow us down, God, and help us to place our hope in you. Be our calm center, that we may be channels of peace to the people around us. This we pray through Christ our Lord who has taught us to pray saying,...

*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.*

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

*Music to call us back together: * "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #196 UMH*

READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

SHARING AND PRAYING

Prayer Response: *"Kyrie" #2275 TFWS*

READING: Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

SINGING: "Lift Up Your Heads, ye Mighty Gates" #213 UMH

SERMON: "Living Alertly"

THE OFFERING UP OF OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #221 UMH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. You have been our support in times of need. Every breath we take is a gift from you. We would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others be alert for your presence, to value life in all its fullness, and to learn to care. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness and all the days of our lives to those purposes. Amen.

SINGING: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #211 UMH (Verses 1-4)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

MUSIC TO GO OUT BY: "There's Something About That Name" #171 UMH