



Vestal United Methodist Church

November 29 2020

First Sunday of Advent



CHUCK BELL

Welcome / Prelude

Prelude of the Christ Child

Welcome and Threshold Moment

**Come together, one and all, in the giving spirit.
Gifts abound here, great and small, joyously we feel it.
Blessings sent us from above guide us on our way.
We raise our voice as we rejoice, bow our head and pray.
A miracle has just begun, God bless us, everyone!**

Lighting of the Advent Candle - First Sunday in Advent

**To the voices no one hears, we have come to find you
with your laughter and your tears, goodness, hope and virtue.
[Fam'ly, parents, children, friends]; each a treasure be.
[One] candle's light dispels the night; now our eyes can see.
Burning brighter than the sun, God bless us everyone!**

[The first Advent candle is lit]

A miracle has just begun, God bless us everyone!

211 Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2 & 6)

Signs of Peace

Gathering Prayer

(adapted from Bonnie Gray, "[Why it Takes Courage to Choose Joy](#)")

God of forgiveness and grace, help us to hear your voice. Touch us once again with your amazing grace and love. Give us the courage to be your people. Give us courage to choose joy. We need you now, especially as we prepare for Christmas – a Christmas that will involve much change and be very different from all others. ... But wasn't that first Christmas so very different, too? Change us as we hear your call. Be born in us again, today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Silence

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, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 1:46-47, 52-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ...

⁵² God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ God has helped God's servant Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Children's Message

Dramatic Reading

Message

Mike Willis

Joys and Concerns

The Symbol of the Chain

Ring out your truth.

Ring out your love.

Reverberate in our lives.

Come, Lord, come!

(repeat, with echo)

Pastoral Prayer

Ring Out Your Truth (reprise)

Living the Faith

Hymn

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Benediction

Congregational Response

God Bless Us Everyone

**Let the stars in the sky remind us of [our] compassion
Let us love till we die, and God bless us everyone
In your heart there's a light as bright as a star in heaven**

**Let it shine through the night and God bless us everyone.
Till each child is fed, Till [we all] are free,
Till the world becomes a family
Star by star in the sky And kindness by human kindness
Let me love till I die and God bless us everyone**

Postlude

Song during Candle Lighting: God Bless Us Everyone

WORDS & MUSIC: Glen Ballard & Alan Silvestri
© 2009 Walt Disney Music Company

Please refer to words in the order of worship.

Opening Hymn 211: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. The Hymnal; Henry Sloane Coffin; The Hymnal & Laurence Hull Stookey
MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore
trans. © 1940, 1943, 1981 The Church Pension Fund; © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Carol 3052: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

WORDS & MUSIC: Traditional English carol, 18th cent.

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Savior
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem in Judah
this blessed babe was born,
and laid within a manger
upon this blessed morn:
for which his mother Mary
did nothing take in scorn. [Refrain]

From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name. [Refrain]

The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway,
the blessed babe to find. [Refrain]

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,

Song: Ring Out Your Truth

WORDS & MUSIC: Maria McFee; arr. Chuck Bell
© 2016 Marcia McFee; arr. © 2016 William C. Bell

Please refer to the words in the order of worship.

Closing Hymn 3104: Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

WORDS: John Newton (sts.); refrain by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
MUSIC: 19th cent. American melody; refrain by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio
Refrain and arr. © 2006 worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures. [Refrain]

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below,
will be forever mine, will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

Refrain:

My chains are gone, I've been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.

Response: God Bless Us, Everyone

WORDS: Lynn Ahrens
MUSIC: Alan Menken
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