



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

The Great Pumpkin Waltz

Vince Guaraldi

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The Welcome

The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: “Make it easy for us to figure out,”

we cry as we seek signs of God’s presence.

We want it simple.

Just tell us and we can take the proper precautions.

There are signs all around of God’s presence among us –

both in that which has been created

and in the newness of creation of everyday living.

We’re looking for signs of gloom and doom –

but we should be looking for signs of hope and triumph.

Forgive us, merciful God,

when we spend so much time looking for the scary things in life.

Focus our attention on ways in which we can be of service

with whatever time we have.

Forgive us when we seek the darkness of anger and fear

and turn our backs on the light of possibilities and peace.

Open our hearts once again to your redeeming love and transforming peace,

for we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

In Christ we are made new.

We are healed and forgiven,

we are challenged and guided

to become those who work for the better

rather than those who would destroy and damage.

You call us your people, O God, and we are eternally grateful.

The Hymn No. 2152

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

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The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show
us the way of salvation.

People: **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

The Sermon

From Anger to Advent

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

What Is the Crying at Jordan

Bret Heim

What is the crying at Jordan?
Who hears, O God, the prophecy?
Dark is the season, dark our hearts,
and shut to mystery.

Who then shall stir in this darkness,
prepare for joy in the winter night.
Mortal in darkness lie down,
blindhearted, seeing no light.

Lord give us grace to awake us
to see the branch that begins to bloom.
In great humility is hid,
all heav'n in a little room.

Now comes the day of salvation,
in joy and terror the Word is born.
God gives himself into our lives;
O let salvation dawn!

Carol Christopher Drake, b. 1933

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The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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.**

The Hymn No. 730

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

ST. MICHAEL

1. O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.
2. Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.
3. Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.
4. Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
and desolation cease.
5. O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again,
and set thy judgments on the earth.

The Benediction

The Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Pachelbel

We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Matthew D. Bates

Minister to Young Adults:

Rev. Drew Willson

Director of Music:

Stanley M. Baker

Pianist:

Lee Covington

Singers:

Emily Downey, Regan Sprenkle

Todd Minnich, Sam Cook

Scriptures

Isaiah 64:1-9

64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered^[c] us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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