

Worship Guide
November 29, 2020
First Sunday in Advent



Welcome

Call to worship

L: Praise be to God!

P: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has visited and redeemed the people.

L: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

P: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Opening prayer

**Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages
a preparation for the kingdom of your Son.**

**Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory
and the fullness of your blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again.

Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love. **R**

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin. **R**

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ. **R**

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy

as we strive to follow the example of Jesus, **R**

Loving God, your Church joyful awaits the coming of its Savior,

who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May their light reflect the splendor of Christ,

who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scripture readings:

Micah 5:2

Matthew 2: 1 - 4

Message: "Called to hope"

Concerns and Prayers

O Lord hear our prayer, O Lord hear our prayer

When we call, answer us.

O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord here our prayer

Come and listen to us.

Offering - This is an opportunity to share the goodness that has been given to you. Consider sending an offering to Centenary UMC, PO Box 630, Skowhegan ME 04976 or to an organization in your community that makes a positive difference in people's lives.

You may also offer God something that's on your heart: joy, gratefulness, anxiety, or something else.

The Great Thanksgiving

And now with the confidence of children of God, we pray as Jesus taught, saying, "**Our Father...**"

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Closing Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH 196

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set they people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Benediction

Note

*****You are encouraged to put together an Advent wreath to use at home starting next week, November 29th. If you don't have the materials for a true wreath, you can use 4 candles arranged around a 5th candle in the center.