

Worship Guide

November 28, 2021: The First Sunday of Advent



GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING PRAYER: We can hardly believe it, Lord. The Advent season is upon us. We usually translate that into the buying season in preparation for THE BIG DAY. But when we place our hope in the tinsel, wrappings, tape and boxes, we forget the most glorious gift of all, the gift of God's absolute love. Open our eyes, our hearts, our spirits today to behold God's gracious love for us in the fulfillment of all God's promises. For we ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #211 *VV. 1,2,3,4*

*1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

*Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

*2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. [Refrain]*

*3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]*

*4 O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people he;
before thee rulers silently fall,
all peoples on thy mercies call. [Refrain]*

*7 O come, Desire of nations bind
all people in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life,
deliver us from earthly strife. [Refrain]*

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 1ST ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

Reader 2: For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

ALL: Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

RESPONSIVE HYMN: Light the Advent Candle #2090 TFWS

Verse 1: *Light the Advent candle one;*

Now the waiting has begun;

We have started on our way,

Time to think of Christmas Day.

[Refrain]: *Candle, Candle burning bright;*

Shining in the cold winter night.

Candle, Candle burning bright,

Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

L: The word of God, for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE:

Gene Rouse

SONG BEFORE & AFTER TIME OF PRAYER: *O Lord, Hear Our Prayers#2200TFWS*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (after each time of silence, we'll finish with the words "Lord in your mercy" and you are invited to respond, "**Hear our prayer.**")

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

This is an opportunity to share the goodness that has been given to you. Consider sending an offering to PO Box 630, Skowhegan, ME 04976. You are also invited to support an organization or church in our local community that is making a positive difference in people's lives.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN: *Open My Eyes, That I May See* #454UMH

*1 Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!*

*2 Open my ears that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!*

*3 Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

God's presence and promises are real.
Go now into God's world, trusting in God's love
and placing your hope in God.
Go in peace. AMEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The New HEARTS AND HANDS THRIFT SHOP

Co-Managers: James Barto and Ila Libby

Hours of Operation: Wednesdays 9 AM to 12 PM

*****Call James @ 207-858-0257 to arrange drop off donations or for more information**

The Thrift Shop will be holding an indoor Christmas sale in the fellowship hall each Saturday, from 9 AM– 12 Noon until Christmas.

CLOTHING CLOSET

The Clothing Closet is open on Wednesdays 9 AM to NOON and 5 PM to 7 PM

The Donation Bin is now closed to receiving donations. Please check our Facebook page for updates.

THE CUP CAFÉ

Our CUP Café is open on Wednesdays 9AM—12 NOON.

Each week we offer a light lunch, lemonade, coffee and snacks. We also have FREE Wi-fi.

FREE DRIVE THRU COMMUNITY MEALS

Our free Drive Thru Community meals are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Our next meal will be on November 30th. A Thanksgiving meal is on the menu. Call 207-474-3915, leave your name and number of meals. Pick up time is between 5pm and 6 pm that evening.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING PROGRAM

Do you or someone you know have need for a wheelchair, walker, crutches, canes, etc.? If so, we have many of these items available through our medical lending program. This is offered by ap-ointment. Call 207-474-3915 and leave your name, phone number, and the item that you need. Someone will contact you. This is an outreach through the partnership of Common Unity Place and Centenary United Methodist Church.

SKOWHEGAN AREA YOUTH GROUP

Thursdays from 5:30-7 pm at Centenary UMC on the Dr. Mann Rd. Snacks and activities provided. For more information, please call Sharon Newell or Kevin Tansey at 207-708-0767 or 207-877-5987.

*If you have unwanted or broken Christmas decorations, please bring them in and drop them off in the Sunday School Room. We will use them for craft projects to sell.