



FOURTH WEEK of ADVENT PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

WE GATHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Welcome this day, to worship.

P: The light of this season has beckoned us forward.

L: Come and rejoice, for God's light is coming to us.

P: Praise be to God who pours light into our lives.

L: Open your hearts and spirits and receive the blessings of God.

P: May we always be ready to respond in joyful ways to God's love.

L: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

ALL: (SING) Prepare YE the Way of the LORD!

OPENING HYMN: UMH 202 People, Look East

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Women's Fellowship

Reader 1: On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the purple candle to symbolize Christ our Hope.

Reader 2: On the 2 nd Sunday of Advent, we lit the pink candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.

Reader 3: On the 3 rd Sunday of Advent, we lit the third candle as a symbol of Christ the Way.

Reader 4: Today We light the fourth Advent candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

Reader 5: May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus,
our hope and joy.

ALL: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

OPENING PRAYER

Before your Word becomes flesh, O God, connect us with the wild, the ancient, the urgent. Connect us to your words uttered in human voice, from tent and tabernacle, full of fear and mercy. Connect us to your words uttered in angelic voice, from the holy Name. Attune our minds and hearts to you, O God of mystery and greatness. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture

Matthew 3:13-17

John 1:1-9, 14

HYMN OF PREPARATION: UMH 206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

MESSAGE: Testifying to the Light

Pastor Jen

HYMN OF RESPONSE: – TFWS 2095 Star Child

RESPOND IN PRAYER AND WITH THANKSGIVING

SONG BEFORE AND AFTER PRAYER: TFWS 2200 O Lord, Hear Our 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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 by thy Name, the kingdom come, the 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

Offertory Chorus:

SONG OF THANKSGIVING: UMH 95 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN: UMH 249 There's a Song in the Air

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

ALL: SING: Prepare ye the Way of the LORD!

God is bringing light to our darkness.

We are called to go into the world, confident in God's loving presence, to serve others in need.

Go in the Way of Christ offering hope, joy, love, and peace to all that you meet.

Go forth and prepare the way of the Lord!!

CENTENARY COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST:

Lord, our faith community prays for the following people and situations:

Mike, Victoria & David McGuire; Ralph & Marge Black; Phyllis Chamberlin; Scott Bosworth; David James; Te Kelly; Debbie Tuttle; Cameron Barnes; Patsy Miller, Jeff Ellis; Cookie Gravel; Darcy Lyons; Lori Trevains; Cliff Brown's family; Kim-Marie Violette's partner, Bruce & his mother Sheila; Sydney Dunbar; Wendell Prosser; Kim Poirier; Larry James & his mother Diane; Barbara Harvey; Tim Young; Judy Steen; Toni Jo & John Blaisdell; Linda & Wendy Eaton; Samantha Brown; Billie Sherman; Al & Wanda Quimby; Jim & Diane Arsenaault; Diane's brother Lenny Doucette; Diane's son Edie Hiltonen; Paul Breglia; Ken Fitzherbert; Babbett; John Benton; Cindy Travers; Pam Everett; Rodney & his mother Clarissa; Carol Taylor; Blaine & Shawna Elliott; Dave Libby. Foster children; Health Care workers; victims and survivors of domestic violence; people struggling with housing and food insecurity; Skowhegan Police, Fire, and EMT departments. Teachers and educator and their support staff. The people of Ukraine. Our D.S. Reverend Arlene Tully. The Bishop, and Reverend Peggy Johnson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:

We will be celebrating Christmas Evening at 6PM with a service of Lessons and Carols.

CHRISTMAS VACATION FOR OUR VOLUNTEER STAFF:

The Café, Clothes Closet, and Hearts & Hands Thrift Shop will be closed Wednesday, December 27th so that our volunteers can have a short vacation. The clothing donation bin will also be closed that week. Please be thoughtful of our volunteers and not leave bags of clothing during this time. Have a wonderful celebration of Christmas and New Year with your families.

FREE TUESDAY MEAL

There will be **NO** community meal on the 4th Tuesday, December 26, 2023. Meals will resume at regular times in January.

Join after the service in Fellowship Hall for a snack and fellowship.

Centenary UMC

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