

**WORSHIP GUIDE**

**December 3, 2023**



**Greeters:** Janice Malek & James Barto

**Ushers:** Rodney Brown, Lynn Eastman, & Rodney Jameson

**Processions of the Greens:** Janice Malek, Bonny Young, Charleen Gordon & Cindy Travers

**WELCOME:**

**Pastor Jen**

**OPENING HYMN: UMH 234** O Come All Ye Faithful

**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Ila Libby**

**L:** How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the king?

**P:** **With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

**Reader: (Explanation of the Trees)**

**Shawna Elliott**

**L:** How shall we prepare this for the coming of the eternal Christ?

**P:** **With garlands of pine and for, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.**

**Reader: (Explanation of the Garlands & Candles)**

**Gene Rouse**

**L:** How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

**P:** **With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.**

**Reader: (Explanation of the flowers, advent wreath etc.....)**

**Kevin Reed**

**L:** How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

**P:** **By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.**

**L:** For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through him might be saved.

**P:** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**BIDDING PRAYER**

**Corinne Dunton**

**Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture,**

**How the prophets of Israel foretold**

**That God would visit and redeem the waiting people.**

**Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,**

**That the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.**

**Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,**

**Will bring all peoples into the glory of God's eternal Kin-dom.**

**But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves,**

**For those who have not heard the good news of God,**

**Or who do not believe it;**

**For those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;**

**And for the Church in this place and everywhere,**

**That it may be freed from all evil and fear,**

**And may pure joy lift up the light of the Love of God.**

**Help us this Advent season to prepare the way of the LORD! AMEN!**

**HYMN: UMH 196 Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Pastor Jen**

L: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again.  
Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

**P: Come, Lord Jesus**

L: That the keeping of advent may open our hearts to God's love.

**P: Come, Lord Jesus**

L: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin.

**P: Come, Lord Jesus**

L: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ.

**P: Come, Lord Jesus**

L: That the Christmas season may fill us with joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus.

**P: Come, Lord Jesus**

**P: Loving God, your Church joyfully 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 candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen**

L: Prepare ye the way of the Lord...

**P: Prepare ye the way of the Lord!**

**Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle:**

**Janice and John Malek**

**Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.**

**Reader 2: May the light sent from God.**

**ALL: Come, Lord Jesus!**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION: UMN 722 I Want to Be Ready**

**Scripture Lesson:**

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:5-17

**Message: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord**

**Betty Frederic**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE: TFWS 2098 Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice**

**WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND WITH THANKSGIVING**

**SONG BEFORE AND AFTER PRAYER: TFWS 2193 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**

**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**".)

WE 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**".)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR ADVENT**

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world.  
We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness.  
We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us.  
We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.  
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.  
Prepare us for His return.  
Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**L:** Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.  
**P:** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
**ALL:** Thanks be to God! AMEN!

**OFFERING**

Offertory Chorus:  
Song of Thanksgiving: UMH 95 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (Pg. 13 of the UMH)**

**CLOSING HYMN: W & S 3045** Down by the Jordan

**BENEDICTION:**

**Shawna Elliott**

**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!**

In all your Advent preparations, remain watchful with your eyes on Christ, whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory.  
Go forth this day in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN!**

## **CENTENARY COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST:**

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

David James; Te Kelly; Debbie Tuttle; Cameron Barnes; Patsy Miller, Jeff Ellis; Cookie Gravel; Lori Trevains; Cliff Brown's family; Darcy Lyon; Kim Violette's partner, Bruce and his mother Sheila; Sydney Dunbar; Wendell Prosser; Larry James and his mother Diane; Judy Steen; Barbara Harvey; Kim Poirier; Toni Jo and John Blaisdell; Linda and Wendy Eaton; Samantha Brown; Billie Sherman; Tim Young; Al and Wanda Quimby; Jim and Diane Arsenault; Diane's brother Lenny Doucette; Diane's son Edie Hiltonen; Paul Breglia; Ken Fitzherbert; Babbett; John Benton; Cindy Travers; Pam Everett; Carol Taylor; Rodney Brown and his mother Clarissa; Blaine and 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. We pray for peace.

## **LIGHT LUNCH TODAY:**

**In preparation for the Church Conference @ 1 PM we are offering a light lunch of soup, salad, and bread in Fellowship Hall. Please join us following the service.**

## **CHURCH CONFERENCE**

**Today @ 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall.**

The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry. All are welcome to attend.

## **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY/ADVENT STUDY**

Beginning Wednesday, December 6th, Pastor Jen will be offering a the 2nd of four sessions of this year's Advent study based on the preaching texts for the sermon series, *"Prepare the Way of the Lord: and the Message of John the Baptist."* A study guide is available at the back of the sanctuary.

## **OUR CHAPEL JUST OFF OF THE SANCTUARY**

has been set up for contemplative prayer and meditation. There are guided meditations, prayers for the season, etc. available to take home and to use in the chapel. Please also find on the back table in the sanctuary, a guide for daily Scripture readings throughout Advent. Blessings on your Advent.

## **Tuesday Drive-Thru Meal:**

November 28th: Spaghetti, Bread, Green Beans

Call the church: 207-474-3915

Leave your name and the number of meals.

Pick up between 5 PM -6 PM that evening.

The next meal is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12th

Please reserve your meal by Monday, December 11th.