



Valley United Methodist Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 27, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Thank you for joining in this worship service! We hope you will enter in the spirit of worship from wherever you are, and whenever you join. We'll follow this order of worship. You'll have to decide whether to stand (\*) and sit when invited! If you're joining in real time, you can add your comments and/or prayer requests in the comments on our livestream [at this link](#). Words in **bold print** are read together. Words from our United Methodist Hymnal (UMH), The Faith We Sing songbook (FWS) and other sources will appear on screen. We're so glad you're here!*

Gathering Music

*Come, Savior of the Gentiles*  
*The Lamb That's Soon to Come*  
*Episode on "Veni, Emmanuel"*

Pachelbel  
 Boyles  
 Smith

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

A voice cries out:  
 "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
**make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

*United Methodist Book of Worship (1992), 241*

\*Opening Hymn      *All Earth Is Waiting* (UMH 210), stanzas 1 & 3

1-All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

3-Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;  
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.  
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

\*Opening Prayer

**Righteous one,  
to you alone we lift our souls;  
in you alone we place our trust;  
for you alone we wait all day long.  
For you are the God of our salvation,  
abounding in mercy and steadfast love.  
Help us remain alert and watchful  
for the coming of your promised one—  
the one who comes with power and glory,  
the one drawing near to bring our salvation. Amen.**

*Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, 238-9, adapted*

\*Peace

The peace of Christ is with you.  
**And also with you.**

Advent Candle Lighting

What do you hope for in the new world God is bringing?  
**I hope for a future that is more amazing  
than anything I could ever imagine.  
I hope for the healing of creation.  
I hope for good mental health and wellness.  
I hope for a world where everyone seeks the good.**  
Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world,  
where we can dare to hope boldly.  
**May it be so.**

*adapted from The United Church of Canada, 2022*

Anthem

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

The Back Row

Time with Children

Gospel Reading      Mark 1.1-4, 14-15

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
    ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
    who will prepare your way;  
    <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
    “Prepare the way of the Lord,  
    make his paths straight” ’,

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Message                      Who He Is (“Christmas” according to Mark)                      Pastor Lee

Making Connections

Do you have a favorite among the four gospels? Why or why not?  
How might the word “repent” be good news?  
Describe a time you changed your mind, in a way that made you better.  
How would *you* introduce this Jesus who is coming soon?

Call to Prayer                      *Like a Child* (FWS 2092), stanzas 1 & 2

1-Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,  
like a child and a friend, Jesus comes.  
Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind,  
like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.

2-Like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet,  
like a child on the street, Jesus comes.  
Like a child we once knew coming back into view,  
like a child born anew, Jesus comes.

Time of 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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.**

Time of Offering

Offertory                      *From Heaven Above to Earth*    Zachau

\*Response                      *Prepare the Way of the Lord (UMH 207)*

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

\*Offering Prayer              Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.  
**And we give in hope.**  
Hope for your coming reign;  
**Hope because of your presence with us even now.**  
Receive these generous offerings,  
**And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world.**  
**Amen.**      Joanna Harader, *Spacious Faith* ([spaciousfaith.com/2017/12/01/offertory-prayers-for-advent](https://spaciousfaith.com/2017/12/01/offertory-prayers-for-advent))

\*Closing Hymn                      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (UMH 213), stanzas 1-3*

1-Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here!

2-Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3-Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide;  
let us thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in us reveal.

\*Benediction

Postlude                              *Isaiah, Might Seer, In Days of Old*    Zachau

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

<b>Sun., Nov. 27</b>	<b>First Sunday in Advent</b>
	9:00 a.m. <b>Worship in Person and Livestream</b>
	10:30 p.m. <b>Adult Sunday School (No downstairs Sunday School)</b>
<b>Wed., Nov. 30</b>	4:00 p.m. <b>Prayer Group</b>
	6:00 p.m. <b>Choir</b>
	7:00 p.m. <b>Christmas Program Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs., Dec. 1</b>	9:30 a.m. <b>Searchers Circle</b>
<b>Sat., Dec. 3</b>	6:00 p.m. <b>Sanctuary in Use (Templeman)</b>
<b>Sun., Dec. 4</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>
	9:00 a.m. <b>Worship in Person and Livestream</b>
	10:30 p.m. <b>Sunday School for all ages</b>
	3:00 p.m. <b>Valley UMC Christmas Program</b>

**Serving us today:** Pastor Lee Schott, Pastor; Karen Hutzell, Organist; Sherry Robinson and Harold Templeman, Ushers; Carolyn Lancaster and Kim Tyrrell, Nursery Attendants; Teresa Cleveland, Fellowship; Jaci Vega and Starr Himes, Tech Team; Nathan Henn, Livestream Greeter.

**Christmas Program Coming Up!** A great team has come together to prepare for our Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 4** at 3:00 p.m. We'll present a fun and meaningful drama and readings that linger on some surprising moments in the nativity story, followed by a dessert potluck in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a treat to share, or just come and receive this experience at the heart of our faith story.

**December Giving Tree:** The Missions Team supports the focus of WDM Human Services' wish lists for December. Contact Rusty Lewis, Mission Team Chair, if you have questions.

**Toys and teen gift cards** in December. Place your unwrapped toy items under the giving tree or your gift cards in the basket on the sound booth by **December 10**.

### **2022 Advent Missions:**

**Heifer International**—Since 1944, Heifer International has worked to bring help, healing and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. They distribute animals, along with agricultural and values-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. Recipients must agree to "pass on the gift" by donating animal offspring, as well as sharing the skills and knowledge of animal husbandry and agricultural training with other impoverished families in the community.

**AMOS** helps in many areas of our community life. One area their volunteers supported recently was the mental health needs in Iowa. They worked with legislators and community members to develop the new system of mental health clinics. This is a beginning step in working to meet the needs of mental health issues with children and adults. The pandemic has increased our needs for these services and people are having more difficulty hiding their issues after staying at home for long periods and losing the contact with and support of others.