



Valley United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 4, 2022

SECOND 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, Blessed Jesus
Magnificat
Noel

Prentiss
 Dandrieu
 Mulet

Welcome

*Call to Worship

My soul smiles
My heart dances
 My fears flee
My mind wrestles
 My tongue shouts praise
My loneliness finds company
 My spirit meets God
Surely, God has come to live among us.

The Africana Worship Book, Year A (2006), 49, adapted

*Opening Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (UMH 626)

1-Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2-King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3-Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4-At his feet the six winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

*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.**

What does peace look like in the new world God is bringing?

Peace looks like a flowing river

where every living thing has what they need to flourish.

Peace looks like a place where those who are weak

are not afraid of those who are strong.

Peace looks like good conversations around big tables.

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
where we can boldly build a good life together.

May it be so.

adapted from The United Church of Canada, 2022

Time with Children

Gospel Reading John 1.1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” ’) ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message Who He Is (“Christmas” according to John)

Pastor Lee

Call to Prayer

Time of Prayer
Holy Communion

Invitation / Preparation / Offering

Prayer of Confession

after JOHN 1.1-18

**Holy and gracious God,
you created all;
you illumine all by the light of your Word.
And yet we choose darkness. We turn away.
Our savior is in the world, enlightening everyone.
He gives power for us all to become children of God.
And yet we do not know him.
Open our eyes to see your glory, O Lord.
Reorient our lives into your grace and truth.
Free us to embrace the fullness of your presence,
grace upon grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

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

The Great Thanksgiving (UMH 15)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

Amen.

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.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Love Came Down at Christmas (UMH 242)

1-Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

2-Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but where with for sacred sign?

3-Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all of us,
love for plea and gift and sign.

What Child Is This (UMH 219)

1-What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain-This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2-Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

3-So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,

let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain*
Prayer after Communion (UMH 11)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*Closing Hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (UMH 206)

1-I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain-In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2-I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3-I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

*Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on a French Noel

Rinehart

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., Dec. 4	Second Sunday in Advent	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Person and Livestream
		10:30 p.m.	Sunday School for all ages
		3:00 p.m.	Valley UMC Christmas Program
Tues., Dec. 6		5:00 p.m.	Back Row Rehearsal
Wed., Dec. 7		4:00 p.m.	Prayer Group
		6:00 p.m.	Choir
Thurs., Dec. 8		7:00 p.m.	Women at the Well Worship at Valley UMC
Sat., Dec. 10		8:00 a.m.	Men's Group at Machine Shed Restaurant
		12:00 p.m.	Wedding (Pastor Lee)
Sun., Dec. 11	Third Sunday in Advent	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Person and Livestream
		10:30 p.m.	Sunday School for all ages

Serving us today: Lee Schott, Pastor; Karen Hutzell, Organist; Carol and Marty Jones, Ushers; Jaden Vega and Kim Tyrrell, Nursery Attendants; Rusty Lewis, Fellowship; Emory and Teresa Cleveland, Tech Team; Jaci Vega, Livestream Greeter.

Our Long-Awaited Christmas Program! We can't wait to share Christmas with you all, at our Christmas Program **TODAY at 3:00 p.m.** We'll share 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, and fellowship with this great community of friends old and new.

Women at the Well Worship: We can't go inside the prison for worship, but they get to join in pre-recorded worship services which Pastor Paul has led in local churches, for our sister congregation inside the Mitchellville prison. We will host the one next week, on **Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m.** Our men's chorus, The Back Row, will be featured musicians along with Pastor Paul's brother Marc who is a brilliant pianist. We will be joined by Women at the Well volunteers, alums, and women currently living at the work release center in Des Moines. It's with and for our sisters inside the prison, and YOU are invited to join, in solidarity and hope, here in our sanctuary at Valley UMC.

December Valley Views and Calendar: Be sure to check out the December Valley Views and calendar attached to the Thursday email or on our church website: www.valleyumc.org under the Events tab. In this issue you will find:

- Pastor Lee's Message
- Mission Updates: Advent Missions, Giving Tree, Reggie's Sleepout
- Advent and Christmas Events
- Searchers Circle and Men's Group
- And much, much more!

