

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent
HANGING OF THE GREENS

ENTRANCE

The people come together in the Lord's name.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior, we prepare this house of worship for the birth of God's Son.

All: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

*HYMN OF HOPE

People Look East

UMH 202

*UNISON PRAYER

Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of your son. Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of your blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Scriptures are opened to the people.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

WORDS OF PREPARATION

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

All: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

All: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

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

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

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

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

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

All: Glory to God in the highest!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

OT 571

HYMN OF EXPECTATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211

PRESENTATION OF THE GREENS

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-3

OT 608

HANGING OF THE MISTLETOE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN OF THE FAITHFUL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-33

NT 52

CHILDREN'S SERMON

A Season of Waiting

LIGHTING AND BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

HYMN OF JOY

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242

PRESENTATION OF THE POINSETTIA

HYMN OF DIRECTION

We Three Kings (verse 4)

UMH 254

FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-5, 9

NT 84

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

ANTHEM

The Wondrous News

Lee Dengler

HOMILY

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: 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 the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: From Isaiah, chapter 9 we read: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

All: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One: Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

All: The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

One: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.

All: May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

ADVENT SONG

Light the Advent Candle (verse 1)

TFWS 2090

RESPONSE

The people respond with acts of commitment and faith.

OFFERING

Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming* arr. Fred Bock
*Doxology UMH 238

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Mighty One, who chose from among the least and the lowliest, Mary who would become the Mother of our Savior: Remind us again that your selection criteria for greatness is so different from ours. You choose the humble over the proud, the weak over the strong, the poor over the rich and powerful. We pray this morning as we give these gifts that you might use them to lift the lowly, feed the hungry, bring justice to those oppressed, bring love to those feeling unloved, and hope to those who feel forgotten. We pray in the Holy name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people are sent into ministry with the Lord's blessing.

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH 196

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES FORTH

*BENEDICTION

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

*POSTLUDE

* = Please stand as you are able.
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

A fully staffed and stocked nursery
is available for your convenience.
Also, the rocking chairs in the Sanctuary
are for rocking your little ones.

Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.



THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory and praise of Almighty God and the gift of his Son, and in loving memory of our son Richmond Gage who would be 55 on December 7 by Ric and Dava Anderson.

THE ROSE ON THE ALTAR is in honor of the birth of Evelyn Hunt Pomer, born July 7, 2017. Evie is the daughter of Alex and Lauren Strickland Pomer, and granddaughter of Craig and Huntsie Strickland.

Today we also celebrate the birth of Evelyn Rochelle Pope. Eve was born November 21, 2017 to parents Wiley and Jillian Leslie Pope. Grandmother is Melanie Leslie and Great Grandmother is Rochelle Pope.



December 3, 2017

Divine Street United Methodist Church

Rev. Elizabeth Gaines, Pastor
Rev. Kristina Yeatts, Director of Christian Education
Mrs. Amy Stovall, Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Anna Bunn, Organist
Mrs. Patti Queipo, Preschool Director
Mrs. Susan Smith, Administrative Assistant

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A Place to... Belong... Believe... Become