

Sunday, December 9, 2018
Second Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE – The people come together in the Lord’s name.

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST AMONG US

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: There is the voice of one crying in the wilderness. The voice cries out for peace and justice, for hope and transformation. That voice reaches to all of us who are comfortable. Things will be different. The Lord is about to do a new thing.

All: This morning those who are drawn to the manger are not the shepherds of old, but are children who never hear the word of hope for something better.

One: But God is doing something new! God is reaching out to those who do not expect it. God’s love is touching the hearts of those who are the voiceless – yes, there is a voice of one crying in the wilderness and that voice cries:

All: Prepare the way. Get ready. Something new is happening, and we all will be included in it! Rejoice!

*OPENING PRAYER

God of winter and starlight, you have promised us your presence: to live among us, to right all wrongs, to bring good things to all who wait for your new day. In these dark days, we look for signs of your coming: the sounds of children at play, the music that fills our hearts with anticipation, the company of all who serve the last and the least. Make us at home with righteousness that we may be ready to walk in your holy ways. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

There’s a Song in the Air

UMH 249

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

HYMN OF PRAYER

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH 221

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

UMH 895

PROCLAMATION – The Scriptures are opened to the people.

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1-4

OT 838

Luke 3:1-6

NT 55

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Story

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHILDREN

Gift-giving God, we pause for a moment to fully thank you for our children. Give them the strength to do what they need to do each day. Help them be brave as they face the challenges that come before them. Keep their hearts calm and peaceful through their waking and their sleeping. Provide for their needs, and lead them as they grow and make more and more decisions. Protect them from harm and wickedness, keeping them safe in this increasingly unsafe world. Instill in them a sense of compassion and a sense of justice so that they all may stand up boldly for what is right and defend the weak. Grant them wisdom and understanding. Fill them all with the kind of joy that can only come from you, and shower them with hope. Most of all God, flood them with your love and let them feel how deeply they are valued. May that love spill out from you and overflow onto others. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

One: O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home. The captives from their prison free, and conquer death’s deep misery.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

One: Our God of Love created the universe and all that is in it. Our God of Love created all things and called them good. Our God of Love, wove into life a beautiful diversity from an infinite palette of creativity. All the creatures that walk or swim, crawl or fly, sing praises!

All: We, God’s people, affirm the creation of all things in love, saying with the psalmist: “God’s salvation is very close to those who honor God so that God’s glory can live in our land. Faithful love and truth have met; righteousness and peace have embraced.”

One: Our first candle was lit as a candle of Hope. On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this candle of Love to remind us that the God of Creation calls us to Love all whom we meet.

ADVENT SONG

Light the Advent Candle (vv. 1 and 2)

TFWS 2090

RESPONSE – The people respond with acts of commitment and faith.

OFFERING

Offertory

*Doxology

Gloria

UMH 238

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

One: Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain, we give you thanks for the gifts and the vision of those who have brought offerings this morning. Today we dedicate not only our financial giving to the ministries of your church, but also our food offerings for those in need.

All: We praise you for the fellowship of faithful witnesses from our church, who, by their ministry, will help to feed those who are hungry. We pray that all who seek love and assistance here and at the food pantry may find you and be filled with your joy and peace;

One: God, you are love. In the desire to make us share in this love, you sent your Son into the world to come to our aid and in gentle kindness to help those who were weak, sick, or unfortunate. In his great love for all of us, Christ said that whatever we do for the least among us we do for him. He called those who show mercy "blessed of the Father" and promised them eternal life. Therefore, Lord, we pray for your richest blessings on the DUMA Food Pantry Ministry and those who labor for it, saying:

All: Lord, teach us to serve our sisters and brothers. Bless these gifts and may they be used to lessen the burden of others.

One: Almighty God, for our sake, your Son came not to be served but to serve. Grant that we too may love our brothers and sisters and help them in their need. By your redeeming work, you made a new world where we have become neighbors to each other and are enabled to love one another. Grant that we may strive toward a way of life in keeping with the Gospel.

All: Lord, your word tells us that if we give ourselves on behalf of the hungry, then our light will shine in the dark. Thank you for those who are shining lights, and please call forth others to make a difference.

One: You want all people to share in the blessings you have brought. Stir the hearts of many among your people, so that, moved by your love, we may gladly devote ourselves to assisting those in need and in misfortune. Enkindle the hearts of those who lead and give with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that they may have visions and blessings in abundance to minister in new ways in this community, to bring the love of Christ to others and so build up your kingdom.

All: **O Lord our God, in you every good work has its beginning. Grant that what we undertake this day to the glory of your name may be for the good of this community, our churches, and all your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH – The people are sent into ministry with the Lord’s blessing.

*HYMN OF PROMISE *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES FORTH

*BLESSING

*BENEDICTION *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

*POSTLUDE

* = Please stand as you are able.
NT = New Testament
OT = Old Testament
TFWS = The Faith We Sing
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal

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 memory of my son, Richmond Gage who would have been 56 on his December 7 birthday, by Dava and Ric Anderson.



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



A Christmas Story

December 9, 2018

Divine Street United Methodist Church

Rev. Elizabeth Gaines, Pastor
Mrs. Amy Stovall, Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Anna Bunn, Organist
Rev. Karen Lucas, Director of Children and Youth
Mrs. Patti Queipo, Preschool Director
Mrs. Susan Smith, Administrative Assistant

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