

Sunday
December 3, 2017
10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Pastor Greg

We are alive in Christ.
We love God,
we care for one another,
and we help people here
and around the world.



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Plain print indicates worship leader.
Bold print indicates congregation.
**Indicates please stand as able.*

Gather to Worship

Welcome

Ministry Opportunities

***Call to Worship**

This is the beginning time for incarnation, for God to quicken in human flesh and step among us. So with every traveler on the way, each follower of promise, each wonderer and questioner, each one who dares to trust the promise of God, come to worship.

Let us gather in the Advent of a God Who enters the fiery furnace of the unstable places of our world.

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

God of noise and fear, God of quiet and storm, as we gather in Your house, may we see You enlivening our worship today.

Come, Lord Jesus, come and upset our carefully guarded routine, our carefully ordered structure.

Come crashing in making Yourself heard in the mixture of sounds.

Come tiptoeing in making us sit up and take notice.

Surprise us with all the ways you are present for us.

Bring calm and reassurance that Your love never falters and that your spirit never leaves us.

Come, Lord Jesus, be known in our imperfect lives today and by Your presence, cleanse and renew us with Your unpredictable Spirit today.

Amen.

***Hymn: #2020** Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

Lighting the First Advent Candle ~ *Cleveland Family*

Prepare the way of the Lord.

We light this candle in hope, the hope of our coming Savior, Jesus.

Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, Your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope. Kindle our hearts, that we might be a hopeful people. Keep us from growing weary of waiting so that we miss the glory of Your appearing. Even so, come quickly, O God.

Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Daniel 3:1-30

Children's Time: *Brad Addis*

Anthem: O Come, O Come Emmanuel ~ *Handbell Choir*

Sermon: "Unbroken Words: Word of Warning"

***Hymn:** #3044 Make Way, Make Way

Praying for Others and for Ourselves

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory: Joy to the World ~ *Handbell Choir*

***Doxology:** #94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

Waiting God, we commit ourselves to waiting with You, waiting to hear Your voice, waiting to know Your will, waiting to discover how You want us to serve You with all that You have given us for the life of the world. Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation —

God's banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from north, east, west and south. A banquet where the rich and powerful will sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb".

Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table, not the church's, and so all who seek to follow the Way are welcome to eat and drink from it. Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

The Great Thanksgiving for Advent—

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Christ is present here.

The Spirit moves within us.

Let us give thanks to God in hope and expectation.

Blessings be to You, Creator God, Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and Who continues to bring it love and light everlasting. Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, Your ancient promise still brings us hope.

Over the ages You have called people to embrace Your hope and share Your love. But even when they have closed their ears to the song You did not stop working. You sent prophets and messengers to Your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world. They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.

And then You came to Mary and laid out the promise in a new way, promising her a Son — Who would be called Jesus — promising her that in this Son the world would be changed. And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

O come, O come Emmanuel!

And so we lift our voices together the praises of ages and ages:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space! All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to Your grace! Hosanna in the highest heaven! Creation sings Your praise! Blessed is the One Who comes and always bears Your name!

The Story Remembered —

Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate His birth, we remember the life that this baby born to be our Savior will live.

We remember how He broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be as He ate openly with the despised and the outcast of his world.

We remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that He ate with His closest friends. He gathered them together in an upper room to share the story of exodus from slavery. He prepared them for a true life of freedom.

At the end of the meal Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying: “Take, eat. This is my body which is given to you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After that He took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying: “Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”

Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also His life, His death and His resurrection. We remember how He poured His love out all He met and look forward to His return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice. In our remembering we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again!

The Holy Spirit Transforms the Bread & Wine (Paracletis) —

Almighty God, You poured Your Holy Spirit on Mary and she sang words of hope and freedom. Pour out Your Spirit upon us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

As we eat and drink may we be opened to the possibilities of Your hope and power. May we be strengthened in our time of waiting so that we will have the courage to live the Christmas promise as the true reality.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen! Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!

Breaking & Serving —

The bread we break is the Bread of Life. The cup we share is the Cup of Promise These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer Following Communion —

God of great expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we have received from Your table. May the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when Christ returns in glory. Grant that this taste of Your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen!

*Hymn: #2218 You Are Mine

*Blessing

*Depart to Serve

*Coming up next Sunday, December 10: Sermon Series: Unbroken Words — “Word of Life”
Ezekiel 3:1-14.*

Prayer for Family and Friends

Diane Reece (Vera Walker's sister) is doing better. Thank you for your prayers.

Phillip Arnold (Linda Cleveland's brother) is recovering from back surgery on Friday.

Jack and Cynda Buckallew are traveling to California to be with family for the winter.

Kat Gensler-Nic had an appointment with the neurosurgeon on Nov. 20.

Christy Hanes (Michael and Lori Tichvon's daughter) needs guidance, support, and care with current and future living arrangements and life decisions.

Delber Jackson (Andrea Read's friend) is battling cancer.

Dan and Sandy Minger are traveling to Texas for the winter.

Nate and Sara Pfeil are praying for a safe and healthy delivery of their baby girl.

Beth Smith is recovering from surgery.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! Psalm 122:6

Prayers for safe travels for all snowbirds

Barb Addis needs healing and pain relief.

Eloise Emmert is recovering from insufficiency fractures and needs healing and pain relief.

Kellie Hiemstra (Joe and Betty Gruber's granddaughter) is recovering from surgery.

Holli Inman has an appointment scheduled at Mayo Clinic in January to review her health issues.

John Matyasik (Steve and Kathy Phillips' friend) needs healing from cancer.

Darlene Melching (Mary Ann Kudary's daughter-in-law's mother) was diagnosed with lung and brain cancer.

Larry and LaVon Rolfe

Linda Schuring (David and Carol Eaton's friend) is battling cancer.

The Sproull family (Joe and Susan Hayes' friends) at the death of Hank Sproull

Arden and Penny Sult and family at the passing of Arden's mom, Bethel Sult

For Cheer and Hello

Liz Anderson	Beverly Nimmo
Mary Evelyn Bell	Robert & Carmen Parsons
David Bretz	
Alice Dibble	Char Rice
Barb Griner	Marv & Kitty Starbuck
Pat McClelland	Al Thomas
Iris McGahan	Mina Willett

In Service to Our Country

Matt Kohler	Tyler Smith
Jeff Kudary	Richie Steinacker
Ryan Miller	Geoff White
Walker Polsinelli	

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

12/3 Dorris Bowman	12/5 Kris Miller
Myrna Forsythe	Diana Pomeroy
Xaviar McClintock-Valencia	Laura Rusk
12/4 Jennifer Pierson	12/6 Deven Breece
12/5 Alice Dibble	Bob Harper
Issabelle Hardy	Rich Myers
Flossie Lang	David Polsinelli
	12/8 Alex Geiger



You are invited to a

Community *Christmas* Celebration!

Tuesday, December 5
7:00 p.m.

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Vicksburg High School
choral music groups
(Chamber Singers, Treble Choir, and Simply Men)
will perform an evening of music
for all to enjoy!

A freewill offering will be taken to benefit
Vicksburg High School's choral music department.
Light refreshments will follow the program.

A Basic Understanding of the Season of Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. In 2017, Christmas falls on a Monday, and Christmas Eve on Sunday night. Thus, in 2017 Advent begins Sunday, December 3, and ends the morning of Sunday, December 24 three weeks plus a portion of an additional day. When Christmas comes on, say, a Sunday, Advent will begin on November 27 and last four full weeks.

Advent began in France sometime in the fourth century. The word comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "coming." It is a distinct season to prepare for the coming of Christ in various meanings: the promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews, the coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers.

Advent, which marks the beginning of the liturgical year, is part of the cycle of seasons that includes Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, all related in some fashion to the coming of Jesus. That cycle is followed by Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and the long Pentecost season.

The color for Advent has traditionally been the penitential and royal color of purple. Some churches (such as UUMC) have adopted the color of hope, blue. In practice, however, as churches increasingly incorporate the symbols and decorations of Christmas during Advent, more and more we see red, green, and gold appearing.

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due by 2:00 Friday, Dec. 15



The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Calendar

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. PIT Crew in the Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- after Worship Christmas Bazaar in the FLC*

Monday, December 4

- 12:00 p.m. *Scouts poinsettia delivery, FLC (till 6:00)*
- 6:30 p.m. Family volleyball in the FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Scout Troop meeting, Taylor Room
- 7:00 p.m. *Worship Committee meeting, Library*

Tuesday, December 5

- NO TRUSTEES MEETING*
- 7:00 p.m. *UMW Christmas Program*

Wednesday, December 6

- 10:30 a.m. SCCS Wednesday Winners, Taylor Rm
- 2:30 p.m. SHED (7th-9th grade outreach), Rm 107
- 5:00 p.m. HELIX (7th-9th grade) in Room 107
- 6:30 p.m. Pickleball in the FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 7

- 9:30 a.m. *Susanna Wesley cookie exchange*
- 10:00 a.m. Play Gym in the FLC
- 5:30 p.m. ROUTE 56 (5th-6th grade)
- 6:00 p.m. Play Gym in the FLC
- 6:30 p.m. RAW (HS Youth) in the FLC
- 6:30 p.m. *Scouts District Round Table, Taylor Rm*

Friday, December 8 - Pastor's Day Off

- 10:00 a.m. Knit & Stitch 2gether in Room 219
- 6:00 p.m. *Scout Pack meeting in the FLC*

Saturday, December 9

- 9:00 a.m. *SCCS Holiday Party, FLC*

Monday through Friday

- 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Heart & Hands Preschool

Coming Events

Sunday, December 10

- 9:15 a.m. *PPRC meeting with D.S., Taylor Room*
- 12:00 p.m. *Church Conference in the Sanctuary*
- 4:00 p.m. *Eagle Court of Honor, Taylor Room*

Wednesday, December 13

- 6:30 p.m. *Scouts, Room 125*
- 7:00 p.m. *PPRC meeting, Library*

Thursday, December 14

- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. *SCCS gift distribution, Rm 219*
- 3:00-6:00 p.m. *SCCS gift distribution, Room 219*
- 5:30 p.m. *Preschool Board meeting, Library*

Friday, December 15

- 3:30 p.m. *Kids Hope party, Taylor Room*

Saturday, December 16

- 5:00 p.m. *Boy Scout Court of Honor, FLC*

Today's acolytes are
John Paul Culver and Harrison Barton

Nov. 19 attendance: 144; Nov. 26 attendance: 118