

**ORDER OF WORSHIP - DECEMBER 1, 2024**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER**

Dr. John Hatton

**WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF JESUS**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

Dr. James Humlong

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**  
arr. Joyce Jones

**INTROIT**

Chancel Choir

**Prepare the Way of the Lord**

Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé

*The congregation is invited to join in singing when cued:*

**Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. John Hatton

The days are coming, God promises.

**Let us prepare with joyful anticipation,  
for new life will spring forth.**

The days are coming, God affirms.

**Let us prepare without fear,  
for we will live in safety.**

The days are coming, God assures.

**Let us prepare with confidence,  
for justice and righteousness will reign everywhere.**

God's promises are true.

**Let us prepare the way of the Lord and let us rejoice!**

**\*HYMN 211**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

stanzas 1-4

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**the third day he rose from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth at the right hand**

**of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY  
INTRODUCTION  
LITANY

Choir  
LOVE (8:45)  
The Clark Family (10:45)

For those of us facing difficult challenges

**Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For the end of wars wreaking havoc and pain in our world

**Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For safety for those fleeing the tyranny of oppression

**Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For the light of forgiveness to shine in our hearts

**Ignite our hearts with hope.**

### Advent's Holy Light Congregational Part

JOEL RANEY

*(on cue)*



Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.

Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -

nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

*(repeat this chorus after the candle lighting and litany)*

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious Creator, in moments of uncertainty, we turn to you with hearts heavy but hopeful. Grant us the strength to navigate challenges, the wisdom to see possibilities, and the courage to embrace the journey ahead. May hope be our guiding light, leading us to a future filled with grace, love, and possibilities beyond our imagining. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Hannah James

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Joan Wooden

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,  
the journey through this season can be exhausting,  
stressful, and confusing,  
At times hope eludes us,  
peace is out of the question,  
and joy seems impossible.  
We confess our need for your coming, once again.  
Open our eyes and ears  
so that we might see the glory of the Lord  
and hear the voices of angels.  
Strengthen our hands and hearts  
so that we might share your love,  
for the sake of the world you seek to save,  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## SILENT PRAYER OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord,  
“when I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.”  
“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord,  
“when I will make a new covenant with them.”  
The time is fulfilled and the kingdom is at hand.  
Brothers and sisters, believe the good news:  
Messiah is coming!  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## HYMN 216

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

stanza 1

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Dennis Burrows

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Chancel Choir

**Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes**

Hal H. Hopson

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

**\*PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Marcia Fultz

**Isaiah 65: 17-19 (NLT)**

“Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth,  
and no one will even think about the old ones anymore.  
Be glad; rejoice forever in my creation!  
And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness.  
Her people will be a source of joy.  
I will rejoice over Jerusalem  
and delight in my people.  
And the sound of weeping and crying  
will be heard in it no more.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

Dr. John Hatton

**\*HYMN 203**

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Dr. James Humlong

**From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

arr. Johann Pachelbel