

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon Yim

Welcome and Announcements

Blessing Our Children

Charlotte Ashworth

***Call to Worship**

Charlotte: How shall we prepare for the coming of the Lord?

Many Voices: With hearts filled with love and peace.

Charlotte: How shall we prepare for the coming of Christ?

Many Voices: With prayers filled with adoration and devotion.

Charlotte: How shall we prepare for the coming of our Savior?

Many Voices: With songs filled with joy and hope.

Charlotte: How shall we prepare for the coming of God's Son?

Many Voices: With worship filled with passion and spirit.

Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

UMH #384

Opening Prayer

Charlotte: God of our deliverance, you meet us in our need. You fill the valleys of our insecurities with hope and bring low the mountains of our pride and conceit. As we await your Son and the glory of your salvation, guide our feet in the ways of peace.

All: Amen!

The Apostle's Creed

UMH #881

All: 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.

Lighting the Advent Candle (Peace)

Jo Bennett

Jo: Today, we light the second candle of Advent. The meaning of the first candle is hope.

The meaning of the second candle is peace.

Many Voices: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."— Colossians 3:15

Jo: Christ comes to us to offer us peace!

Many Voices: Christ is our peace!

[Light Two Blue Candles]

Advent Prayer

Jo: God of Peace, we remember that on the night Jesus was born, the angels in heaven rejoiced and sang, "Glory in the highest, peace on earth!" You always guide us to a life of peace, but we confess that we have strayed from your way. We often get lost in our life's journey and lose track of your peace. Lord, you come to break down the walls of hostility and hatred. Be with us in this season of Advent and help us attain peace and reconciliation at home, in the church, and in the world. Inspire us to live as peacemakers. May we as instruments of your peace help our world to be more harmonious and balanced. May our world become a better place to live through what we do and share. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the prince of peace.

Many Voices: Amen.

Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (*verse 1*)

UMH #211

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: As you rescued your people of old, rescue us over and over again, Mighty One. As you purified the saints like a refiner's fire, purify our lives this day and bless the gifts we bring before you now. Through our offering, may those who sit in darkness find their way into the light of your loving arms. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4 (*NRSVue*)

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 1:6 (*NRSVue*)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:3-6 (*NRSVue*)

Charlotte Ashworth: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"He Who Began a Good Work in You"

TFWS #2163

Proclaiming

"Learning Through Negative Examples"

Pastor Dave

Joys and Concerns

Text Pastor Dave (224.600.0446) with your prayer requests or give him a note before worship service.

Prayers of the People

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Dave: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession & Pardon

Many Voices: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we

have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Silent Prayer]

Pastor Dave: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners: that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ; you are forgiven!

Many Voices: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Dave: The Lord be with you.

Many Voices: And also with you.

Pastor Dave: Lift up your hearts.

Many Voices: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Dave: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many Voices: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor Dave: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Many Voices: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor Dave: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.

Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "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 sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Many Voices: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor Dave: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. 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.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Many Voices: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Bread and Cup

***Closing Hymn**

"Gather Us In" (*verses1-3*)

TFWS #2236

Benediction

Postlude