



**Nantucket**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**Sunday December 6, 2020**  
**10:00am**  
**Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Richard**  
**Pastor**

**NantucketUMC.org**



www.nantucketumc.org  
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ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Second Sunday In Advent  
December 6, 2020

**Prelude**  
**Welcome & Announcements**

**Isaiah Williams**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

**Reader:** Our lists are long, even in the strange and messy environment in which we live. We want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company we hope can come. We are on our way.

**Congregation:** The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open wide the door of Christ in our lives.

**Reader:** So, we light advent candles to remind us of the path God's has put before us. First, we light the candle of hope (light candle) and we light the second advent candle of faith (Light candle). These are affirmations that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us in Jesus Christ. We light these candles in expectation of a new day and a new way.

**Congregation:** We trust that this new way will help us recapture decency, a sense of justice, and new wave of kindness and care for a Christ who invites us to open our hearts and minds and spirits to the world. O Come, O Come Emanuel!

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: To you O God, we lift up our souls. In you we put our trust

**Congregation: Use this hour to remind us of your ways, and the path you wish us to take**

Leader: Let us rejoice that we journey together this Advent

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

**Opening Hymn** “Lift Up Your Heads...” No. 213 (UMH)

### **Invocation (in unison)**

**Eternal God, we have come to lay aside our anxieties and cares, and focus on the Good News of this season of Advent. Open our ears and our hearts to receive your blessings. ... Amen**

### **This Morning’s Scriptural Texts**

#### **Isaiah 7:7-14**

Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “It will not take place, it will not happen, for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people. The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.” Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and<sup>l</sup> will call him Immanuel.

#### **Matthew 1:18-25**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about<sup>[a]</sup>: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph,

but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet<sup>[d]</sup> did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[d]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”<sup>[d]</sup> (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God

**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

**A Hymn** “Lo. How A Rose...” No. 216 (UMH)

**The Homily** “God In The Midst Of It All” Dr Richard

**The Morning Prayers**

Prayer Requests

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**Call To Offering**

**Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow*

*Praise him, all creatures here below*

*Praise Him above ye heavenly host*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen*

## **Dedication of Our Gifts and Offerings**

### **The Lord's Supper**

The Invitation

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God of shalom, we confess that we have built up walls to protect ourselves from our perceived enemies, from those different from us,

and from the strangers among us; but those walls also shut us off from receiving your love. Break down those walls and help us to see that the way to your heart is through the reconciliation of our own hearts with others. Bless them and us, that we may come to grow in love

for each other and for you, through Jesus Christ

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing The Elements "Bread of the World..." No. 624  
(UMH)

Prayer of Thanks

**\*Closing Hymn** "While Shepherds Watched..." No. 236  
(Vs. 1,2 -UMH)

### **\*The Blessing**

May the peace of God enfold us, The love of God uphold us,  
The wisdom of God control us.

### **\*Choral Benediction**

*Go now in peace, never be afraid, God will go with you  
Each hour of every day.*

*Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,  
Know God will guide in all you do.*

*Go now in love, and show you believe  
Reach out to others, so all the world can see  
God will be there, watching from above  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love, Amen*

**\*Amen (and the people all said....Amen!)**

### **Welcome**

This is such a critical time for Christ's people! We cannot endure the changes in our lives without God's presence, Jesus' teachings, and the Spirit's guidance. We are blessed to celebrate that realization with you this morning via zoom.

### **The Sacrament of Communion**

We practice an open communion table to which all are invited, whether a member of this congregation or not. Please use whatever elements you have in your home, and we will consecrate them before we all partake.

### **Advent Stories and Prayer**

Join us via Zoom for a short time of prayer and reflection on Advent stories. 7pm Wednesdays

### **Are You A Visitor?**

If you have joined us by zoom as a visitor, we would like to send you a personal note of welcome. Please send us your contact information by calling 508-228-1882 and leaving a message

### **Your Financial Support is Important**

We are a small congregation and so appreciate those who are moved to support our ministry. There is an offering plate to the right of the exit door if you wish to make a contribution. For those who wish to give by phone or on-line, using your iPhone you can download and use the app "Tithe.ly" (please note how it is spelled, so that you download the correct app). Thank you so much.

### **Charge Conference Tomorrow Afternoon**

Our church's charge conference is tomorrow afternoon from 5:30-6:30pm The conference is our church's annual meeting, where we elect, nominate, and pray together as we begin a new church year. All members are urged to attend (via zoom) - same Zoom link for this service.

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

***Bishops Day*** on the District is on ***December 8, 2020 it will be starting at 6:30PM not 7:00PM as previously announced***. This is a mandatory meeting for clergy and the laity from your church are invited to participate as well. Below is the Zoom Link for the meeting.

Topic: My Meeting

Time: Dec 8, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97597015901?pwd=TU1FaUxUVkxJamVwN2Rsc0hSNDUxdz09>

David

### **From My Heart To Yours...**

Dear Friends,

Advent is a time of anticipation of the most amazing news of the fulfillment of God's promise to provide humanity with a Messiah who will bring a message of peace, joy, justice, and eternal life.

And, we are anticipating some other good news – this too will affect in dramatic ways, the health and future of humanity. A vaccine will soon be available for the world. Both the Good news celebrated during Advent, and the good news of a vaccine broadcast throughout the media, is good news for all of humanity. We thank God for both of them. We believe the Almighty is in the midst of them. God Bless and Keep You,  
Tom

## Directory

Accompanist Mollie Glazer & Isaiah Williams  
Lay Leader Sylvester Baptiste  
Chair Admin. Board Marianne Stanton  
Chair Altar Guild and Emeritus Chair, Trustees, Nelson Eldridge  
Chair Trustees Toby Brown  
Chair Mission and Outreach Kathryn Batchelder  
Chair Staff Parish Relations Marianne Stanton  
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