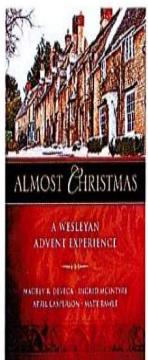


ADVENT DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY



Why not experience a little John Wesley this Advent season?

In Almost Christmas, author and pastor Magrey deVega encourages people to follow Christ wholeheartedly during Advent, connecting the Wesleyan heritage with traditional Advent themes of...

Love, Hope, Joy, Peace!

The Advent Study & Fellowship will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8PM. You will be able to participate online or in person (in Fellowship Hall).

Almost Christmas Advent Devotionals are available as an additional resource for individuals and families. Books are available through the church office:

Study Book - \$11.00 and Devotional Book - \$9.00
Inspirational Advent Fellowship – **priceless**

For additional information contact the WUMC office (203) 263-4775 or Bud Behlman (203-206-9276 or budbehlman@charter.net)



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798 (203) 263-4775
www.woodburyumc.net

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

Woodbury United Methodist Church

December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Thomas Felmore

Barb and Jeff Hunt, Bells

GREETING

Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP

for the 2nd Sunday of Advent

from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

based on Isaiah 40, Psalm 85, 2 Peter 3

Lift up your voice. Lift it up, do not fear.

Feeding, gathering, carrying, leading: this is how God will come.

The old will pass away. A new world will dawn.

Love, faithfulness, righteousness, peace: these will mark God's new day.

Love needs a path. Peace needs a highway.

Even as we wait, let us make a way for our God, in our hearts and in our world.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Thomerson

Hymns sung by Carolyn Shay

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

led by Rynn Naylor, Liturgist

from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

based on Psalm 85, 2 Peter 3

God, we are confident that you are coming, bringing a world where all will be made right. Calm our anxiety, strengthen our patience, and keep our hope aflame, as we work towards, and wait for, your new day. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: *PEACE*

James Levario, Confirmand

Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798

Church phone: 203-263-4775

Web Site: www.woodburyumc.net

Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Rev. John Thomason, Pastor

Parsonage phone: 203-263-7575; cell phone: 845-707-5152

Pastor's e-mail: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com

Chris Shay, Director of Music

Kathy Craig, Office Administrator

Mark Davis, Lay Leader

Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone. We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world. Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

Week of December 2, 2020

Visitors are warmly welcomed! We invite you to sign the worship register as it is passed during the announcements, or fill out a visitor's card provided by a greeter. If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available in the narthex. Immediately following today's worship service, please join us for Fellowship Hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to become a member of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to the pastor. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, the season that begins the new Christian Year. Advent consists of four weeks including four Sundays, ending on Christmas Eve. The season proclaims the coming of the Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. The liturgical color is blue, symbolizing hope.

On Communion Sundays, the Lord's Table is open to all who seek to follow Christ, regardless of age or denominational background. An offering plate is located on the table at the rear of the sanctuary to receive donations to our church's benevolence fund.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Rynn Naylor*, Liturgist and Reader; *Carolyn Shay*, Singer; *James Levario*, Advent Candle Lighter; *Tesu Beavers*; *Jack, Joey, and Ruby Lynch*, Children's Time.

Please note: WUMC's worship services are livestreamed and archived on the church's website, www.woodburyumc.net.

Altar flowers are given this week by *the Shay family* "In honor of Chris's 70th birthday with love from all his family."

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.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on 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.

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. **Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison) from *At the Lord's Table*

Lord, your word and your sacrament give us food and life. May this gift of you Son lead us to share his life for ever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, Name Above All Names

N. Hearn

BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomason

***POSTLUDE**

Like a Shepherd He Feeds His Flock

Dufford/Hytrek

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, who is our hope, peace, joy, and love.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME *Come to the Manger: Peace for Advent* from SkitGuys

Recorded by Tesu Beavers; Jack, Joey, and Ruby Lynch

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rynn Naylor

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Rynn Naylor

Lessons for the 2nd Sunday of Advent
from *The Revised Common Lectionary, Year B*

Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 40:1-11 (NRSV)*
God's People Are Comforted

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

SERMON

The Turning Point

Rev. Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSON (unison) from *The United Methodist Hymnal*

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 PRAYERS OF CONFESSON

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *He Comes to Heal the Broken-Hearted* D. Wagner

WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

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

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.

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 your 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.