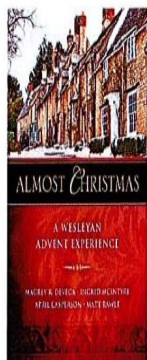


ADVENT DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY

Woodbury United Methodist Church



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)



Sunday, December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798 (203) 263-4775

www.woodburyumc.net

Woodbury United Methodist Church

December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Mary Pondered These Things in Her Heart* J. S. Bach
Christopher Shay, organist

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP for the 3rd Sunday of Advent
based on 1 Thessalonians 5, John 1
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

Come! Rejoice in our God. Let us give thanks, whatever life brings.
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Let us prepare our hearts and our world for the Prince of Peace, who is coming.
May all who weep come home with shouts of joy.

Prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight the path for God's arrival.
In prayer, song, and service, let us prepare for the birth of love.

*OPENING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
Hymns sung by Venetia Phillippe

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Levi Phillippe, Liturgist
based on Isaiah 61, John 1
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

Spirit of God, we give you thanks for drawing near, for touching the world in the Savior's birth. Help us draw near to you, as we prepare our hearts and our world for the justice and peace you bring. Guide our preparations for Christmas, as we share the good news with all who suffer, and as we offer our friendship to those who are alone. Move within our hearts, as we make a way for your coming, by forgiving others as we have been forgiven. Come, Spirit of God; be born in us anew, that we may live in your mercy and your grace. Amen.

IMPORTANT DATE

Advent Prayer Vigil: WUMC'S Prayer Ministry Team will host a time of meditation and prayer on Thursday, December 17, from 7:00 – 7:45 PM in the sanctuary. Readings and prayers appropriate to the Advent season will be provided for silent reflection. You are invited to afford yourself this opportunity to pray for our world, nation, and community, as well as your friends, family, and church. The usual safety protocols will be observed.

THE PRAYER CORNER

Please remember persons in our church family who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are recovering at home: *Abby and Travis Cloud; Toby, Ed, and Liam McGrath; Grace Bower Richardson.*

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, Matthew Shupenis*; their adult leaders: *Catherine Mason, Meg Temple, John Thomason*; and their mentors: *Mike Boisseau, Mollie Cole, Rev. Paul Hibbard, Carolyn Shay.*

Outpatient tests: *Bob Asman, Dave Brencher*

Upcoming chemotherapy and surgery: *Mary Wilkins, sister of Barb Hunt (Rochester, NY)*

Recovering at home: *Gary McClendon; Ally Roche; Steve Thomas; Carol Hennessey; Paige LeBlanc, mother of Jessie Lynch (Manchester, CT); Dominic Vaiuso, father of Karen Williams (Newtown); Robert Ayers, father of Tacy Nettleton (Woodstock, GA); Carl Hinkle, father of Toby McGrath (Greensburg, PA); Peter Gallagher, father of Jen Carnes (Brookfield, CT); Lou Calabrese (husband of Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese); Jane King, mother of Stephen King and mother-in-law of Joann King (Sarasota, FL); Antonio Stillitano, grandson of Paul Hatch*

Outpatient treatments: *Jackie and John Fleming; Dave Davison, father-in-law of Gary McClendon; Stephanie Galaburri, friend of Sandy Carbonaro; Will Styblo, nephew of Jim Styblo and Catherine Mason (Franklin, TN)*

Homebound members: *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*

Please continue to remember: *Jean Lilly, mother of Meg Temple (Cincinnati, OH), Manny Gesh, Jane True, Blair Feller, Marilyn Bender, Ryan DeRidder and family, Laura & Stuart Brush, Janet Grant, sister of Betty Lines, Donna Louise Burke, friend of Kathy Craig.*

Altar Flowers - Reminder that we are placing flowers on the altar again so let us know if you want to sign up for a particular date. If you would like to send someone a birthday card, please see our website @ www.woodburyumc.net for this month's listing.



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 13, 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 Third 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 comings 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.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Levi Phillippe*, Liturgist and Reader; *Venetia Phillippe*, Singer; *Cody Cordova*, Advent Candle Lighter; *Annabelle, Caroline, and Jackson Cloud*; *Liam McGrath*, 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 *Rynn Naylor* "In memory of all the blessed saints of WUMC."

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: *JOY*

Cody Cordova, Confirmand

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

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

Recorded by Annabelle, Caroline, and Jackson Cloud; Liam McGrath

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Levi Phillippe

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

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (NRSV)

The Good News of Deliverance

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall

exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NRSV)
Final Exhortations

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Gospel Lesson: John 1:6-8; 19-28
The Testimony of John the Baptist

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *All Earth Is Waiting* Taule

SERMON *Rejoice Always* Rev. Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Like A Shepherd He Feeds His Flock* Duford

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

BENEDICTION Rev. Thomason

*POSTLUDE *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* J. S. Bach

