"Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

November 29th, 2026

Rev. Dr. Andreá Cummings-Wratee, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, District Superintendent
LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Presiding Bishop

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First Sunday of Advent
****Please stand as you are able in body or spirit***

Prelude~ *"I Don't Mind Waiting"*

Welcome~ *Rev. Dr. Andreá Cummings-Wratee*

Blessing of Advent Wreath~ *(Response, #207 UMH)*
Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we always be ready to welcome home.
Come Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,
That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin, ***R***

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ, ***R***

Loving God, Your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour fourth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

The lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader One: *The prophet Isaiah declares, "From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him"* (Isaiah 64:4 NRSV). *Today, we continue to wait and call out in hope for God's restoration to meet us here, believing that God knows our struggles and works even now for the fulfillment of our salvation.*

Congregation: When God feels far away, and our lament feels too heavy to bear, we remember God's steadfast love. May this love empower us to wait and watch in hope for the day when God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Reader Two: *We light this candle of hope as a sign of God's promises, that we might persevere in hope, a hope grounded not in wishes and whims but in the trustworthy and persistent love of God already at work among us to save and restore all creation.*

****Opening Hymn**~ "Soon and Very Soon" - #193 AAHH*

Opening Prayer

****Offering***
Doxology~ "*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"~#650 AAHH*

Prayer of Illumination: Holy God, open your Word. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that our eyes may be enlightened and we may know the hope to which we have been called; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

****The Scripture Readings***

First Reading**:** *Isaiah 64:1-9: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.*

The word of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God****.*

****Psalter**~ #801-802, Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19. Response #1*

****Second Reading*****:** *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The word of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God****.*

Song of Preparation~ *"Come Jesus Come"*

Gospel Reading: *Mark 13:24-37: "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."*

The word of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God****.*

Proclamation~ *Dr. Cummings-Wratee*

****Affirmation of Faith:*** *(881 UMH)****: 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. (*universal)***

Prayers of the People: *Lord, in your mercy****, hear our prayer.***

****Confession/Pardon/ The Peace~*** *Pg. 8, UMH*

Thanksgiving & Holy Communion~ *insert*

Lord's Prayer

Post Communion Prayer*: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Announcements

****Benediction***