

Community of Faith
United Methodist Church
November 27, 2022 | 8:30AM
First Sunday in Advent
Sacred Time



Worship Guide

THOUGHT FOR THE MORNING

The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.

WELCOME

MUSIC OF PRAISE

Hymn | *Eternal God, Transcending Time W&S 3030*

Eternal God transcending time, yet mindful of the fears,
the hopes, the questions raised for us - by ever-changing years:
so guide us through our pilgrim days that we may find a home
where justice, truth, and mercy meet, fulfilled in your shalom.

Incarnate God revealed in time, true Word in flesh retold,
who marked the years from birth to death, then rose to break death's hold:
by your becoming one with us, help us to know and claim
the unity of all baptized in your redeeming name.

Life-breathing God enlivening time, awaking heart and tongue,
inspiring prophets, bringing hope, consoling old and young:
draw us to those denied your gifts by bias, want, or strife,
convert our wills and form through us new channels of your life.

Great Triune God, so bless the time entrusted to our care,
that all our varied ministries may form a common prayer;
then, when time ceases, bring us where divisions are undone,
that in your presence, joined in praise, at last we may be one.

Crossing the Threshold

[As the first candle is placed & lighted, the congregation is invited to sing]

**Upon this moment, upon this people,
upon this place, the holy comes.
And sacred knowing brings sacred being
for sacred doing of God's plan.**

Prayer

Hymn of Hope | *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* UMH 196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

refracting the sacred

As light passes through a medium, it can be redirected in ways that make its brilliance more visible, as in a prism. As we encounter the message today, we see the world and our own lives and loved ones in a different light, one that invites us to know more deeply the sacred nature of all things.

Introduction to Scripture

First Reading | Romans 13: 11-14

Second Reading | Matthew 24: 36-44

Sermon

Anointed to Sacred Time

Offering

refilling the sacred

We are wells of the sacred. God's presence is poured into creation in a never-ending flow of love. We enter a time of prayer that invites us to be refilled in ways that can help us pour out our love throughout the week. All we must do in this moment is open our hearts to the Holy One.

Prayers of the People

"Emmanuel" UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Giving of Bread & Cup

reframing the sacred

We too often think that something "sacred" is far away and not available to us. This Advent season, we are "reframing" the way we recognize the sacred reflected all around and through us. As we prepare to move into the world, we begin to reframe our view of the world and our circumstances, illuminating new ways of being the Christ (Anointed One) tangibly present.

Benediction

When you see lights twinkle, when you catch a reflection in a mirror,
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,

let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed again and again in and through this world.

Know that your brilliant presence is pouring more hope into a weary world.
God loved us by becoming us. This means you are already reflecting the sacred.
In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit of Hope. **Amen.**

Postlude



Announcements

December 12 - Hypothermia Shelter Support. Help prepare, bring, and serve dinner on Monday, December 12th at Epiphany Episcopal Church. The evening's meal will consist of chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert. Please sign up for meal items at: <https://tinyurl.com/CoFChiliSignUp>. Thank you for your support!

Buy a Christmas Tree, Feed the Hungry! Vale United Methodist in Oakton is selling Christmas trees and **your purchase will provide, on average, 100 life-saving meals for hungry persons around the world.** All proceeds from Vale Church's tree sale will be donated to *Rise Against Hunger* www.riseagainsthunger.org, as well as being used for local anti-hunger efforts here in Fairfax County. Wreaths, pine garlands and tree stands are also for sale, as well as opportunities to help sponsor a tree for a family in need. Enjoy Christmas Carols and cookies while you shop for the perfect tree for your Christmas home. For more information, call 703-620-2594.



Mitten Tree for 2022 will continue our new tradition of providing \$25 gift cards a big box store, Target, instead of shopping for gifts for the mittens on our tree. The cards are so appreciated by the recipients of our food pantry. Donations of cards or funds to purchase cards can be made on Sunday at the Alternative Giving table or mailed to the church. Each gift card will be delivered in a beautiful Christmas card with a personalized message. Your support helps provide a happier holiday for many of the neediest in our community.

GIFTS FOR GOOD Wouldn't your friends and family love to know you donated in their name to...
Feed a local family - [CoF Food Pantry](#) | Support racial and social justice issues in Virginia - [Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy](#) | Help alleviate world suffering - [UMCOR](#) | Provide support to end hunger and poverty - [Heifer International](#) | Help end hunger and achieve food security- [Rise Against Hunger](#)

For United Methodist News - visit www.umnews.org, www.um-insight.net or www.umc.org

Prayers

For our parents and families

Scott Baron for his wedding last weekend
Thanksgiving for Terri Orvis' mom's improvement
Joe (MaryAnn East's nephew)
Suzi Mihalak (sister of Jake) with recently diagnosed thyroid cancer
Bob – Terri Timanus' brother-in-law, for health
Parents of Lara Fries (Shelby), Bane Vaughn (Betty Shamburger), Fred Mowery (Fred), Chris Gohrband (Virginia),
Mary Ann East (Jackie), Kim Fuller (Joanne)

For Friends & Neighbors

Former co-worker of David Mezanis
Devan, Friend of Ali, upon the loss of her cat

For our state, nation, and world

The communities of UVA and Colorado Springs upon this week's loss of life, injuries and trauma
Safe travels for all over Thanksgiving
Gatherings where Thanksgiving tables have an empty seat due to death, loss, or deployment
People of Ukraine
People of Iran in their work for freedom from oppression

Expressions of Christian sympathy are extended to

✠ The family of Maz, cousin of Ghazal in Tehran, upon his sudden death

What's Happening this Week

SUNDAY (Nov 27) Adult Sunday School
SUNDAY (Nov 27) Youth Group
SUNDAY (Nov 27) CWA Worship 1PM
SUNDAY (Nov 27) Charge Conference
MONDAY & TUESDAY AM – Food Prep @11AM
TUESDAY (Nov 29) Food Distribution 4:00-6PM

TUESDAY (Nov 29) Vespers with Pastor Rob
WEDNESDAY (Nov 30) Boy Scouts 7PM
THURSDAY (Dec 1) Sanctuary Choir 7:30PM
SUNDAY (Dec 4) Candles, Carols & Cookies 7PM
MONDAY (Dec 12) Hypothermia Dinner

Welcome

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. (Matthew 10:40)

At Community of Faith, we believe each individual is of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's creation and as demonstrated by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We celebrate the beautiful diversity of all races, nationalities, and ethnicities. We welcome and affirm you whether you are rich or poor; love the Church, have never been to Church, or have been wounded by spiritual communities; gay, straight, or whatever your gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation may be; married or single; a person with children or without children; able-bodied, differently-abled, or challenged with mental or emotional health issues; certain of many things or full of questions. We vow to be a safe community truly open to everyone to grow in faith - God's love has no bounds.

Ministers - The Entire Congregation

*Lay Leaders – Jocelyn Gabriel & Ghazel Chilan | Music Director: Dr. Mary Ann East
Music Accompanist: Dr. Kelly Nam | Children's Coordinator – Kelli Timanus | Nursery Care – Ali Greenberg
Youth Director & Food Ministry Administrator: Hannah Godfrey | Office Manager – Di Hannum Beatty
Resident Deacon – Joanna Dietz | District Superintendent – Sara Calvert | Bishop – Sharma Lewis*



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