

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

God said, "The time is coming."
Jesus said, "So, be ready all the time."

There are many different "homes."
What does "home" mean for you?

Is Jesus your hope?

How will you make this Advent season different from all the others?

How will you show others your "hope"?

* BENEDICTION

* *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

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*Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.*

~ John Wesley ~

*I expect to pass through life but once.
If therefore, there be any kindness I can show,
or any good thing I can do to any fellow being,
let me do it now and not defer or neglect it,
as I shall not pass this way again.*

~ William Penn ~

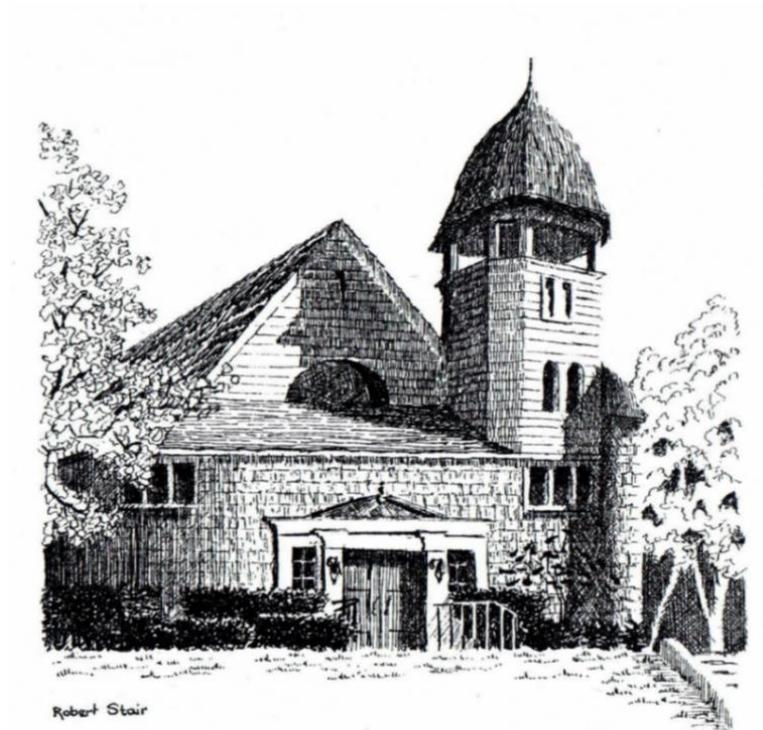
WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 28th, 2021

"FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

"COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"

Liturgical Color – Purple



DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

***"The LORD says, "The time is coming
when I will do the good thing I promised to the people of Israel and Judah.
So be ready all the time."***

- Jeremiah 33:14 ... Luke 21:36a

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

GOD'S WORD:

Jeremiah 33:14-18 ... Luke 21:25-36

(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... The People respond: "Thanks BE to God"

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE ... **A TIME TO FOCUS OUR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS ON KING JESUS**

PROCLAMATION **COME HOME**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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OPENING PRAYER

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Something stirs deep within us – a longing, a hope,
A thirst for joy, a hunger for peace, a yearning for blessing.

We know deep within that our hopes and fears
Will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

It is Advent -

Season of waiting, hoping, longing, yearning.

Advent -

Time to come home.

* *Blessed be the God of Israel*

209

PRAYER & LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE:

We can hardly believe it, Lord. The Advent season is upon us.

We usually translate that into the buying season in preparation for THE BIG DAY.

**But when we place our hope in the tinsel, wrappings, tape and boxes,
we forget the most glorious gift of all,
the gift of Your absolute love.**

**Open our eyes, our hearts, our spirits today
to behold Your gracious love for us in the fulfillment of all God's promises.
For we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is giving that we receive,

it is pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is dying that we are born to eternal life.

* *O Day of God, Draw Nigh*

730

* PRAYER FOR OFFERING OUR LIVES, OUR TITHES, AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Giver of all good things,

as we offer these gifts to you,

open our eyes to see more clearly

all that we have been given

and all that we have to give.

Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves:

our love, our companionship,

and our material resources,

wherever they are needed.

Amen.

**We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,
giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,
making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,
declaring an everlasting reign of peace,
defeating the power of pain and suffering.**

**We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,
inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table,
transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,
sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort,
challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.**

This we believe. This we preach.

This we seek to embody in word and deed.

Amen and Amen.

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

*Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

CHILDREN'S CHAT

WHERE CHILDREN BELONG

2233 (sing twice)

*This, this is where children belong,
Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:
This is where children belong.*

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER:

(Ecumenical Text)

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Today we light one candle - the Candle called HOPE, as a reminder that God's promises are true.

We place our hope in God.

We place our lives In God's care.

Come, all is ready.

Let the light of this one candle, called hope, bring brightness to our spirits.

May the light of this one candle invite us to come home to the ONE who is our HOPE.

Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)

2090 (verse 1)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CORPORATE CONFESSION & MOMENTS OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION:

It is so easy for us, Lord, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives.

We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains.

And in our anxiety, we act out our fear in ways which are not helpful

and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live.

We feel the pressure to give, and resentment in giving.

We feel the push to be present at every upcoming event, and want to run and hide.

Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope.

Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us ... guiding, healing, loving, encouraging us.

Forgive us for our fears and our stubbornness.

Bring us again to your light, for we ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PARDON

There's Something About That Name

Sharron Lewis

* A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing – www.stephenmfearing.com

We believe that God has come to us as a little child,

making our weakness his strength,

securing our salvation by becoming one of us,

blessing us with a steadfast savior,

filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.