

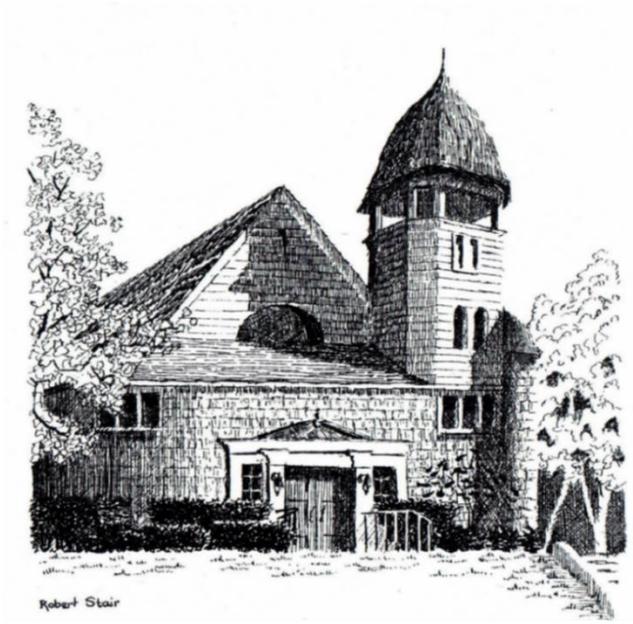
WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 5th, 2021

"SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

"COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERIES"

Liturgical Color – Purple



DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

"Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me."

A voice cries out in the desert:

"Prepare the way for the Lord! Make his paths straight!

Every valley will be filled. Every mountain and hill will be leveled.

The crooked ways will be made straight. The rough roads will be made smooth."

Malachi 3:1 ... Luke 3:4-5

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

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

PROCLAMATION **COME HOME**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196 (verse 1)

OPENING PRAYER

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Welcome today to this time of preparation.
**Although we have been preparing for celebrations,
we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.**
Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.
How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.
Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.
Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace.
Amen.

* *All Earth Is Waiting*

210 (verses 1, 2, 3)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST SECOND ADVENT CANDLE:

Today we light two candles ... the first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

We seek God's peace in this time of stress.

Come, all is ready.

Let the light of this these candles, called HOPE and PEACE, bring brightness to your spirits.

Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)

2090 (verses 1,2)

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you.

These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful.

**We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace;
yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion.**

We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, or can do enough.

You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still".

Help us to hear you. Slow us down.

Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run.

**Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it
is in helping others and reaching out in love that we will find true peace.**

These things we pray, in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PARDON

Special Selection

Priscilla Ruckno

* 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.**

**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:

(Ecumenical Text)

GOD'S WORD:

Malachi 3:1-4 ... Luke 3:1-6

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

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

"THE FEAR OF HOME"

A GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

by Taylor Burton-Edwards

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Straighten our crooked paths, O God!

The day of the Christ's coming draws near.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The Spirit of the Lord is in this place.

Pray through us now, Holy Spirit.

Pray through us now,
that we may praise you, Holy, Triune God,
with angels and archangels,
with beings in heaven and all creatures on earth,
with all who have ever sung this hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts,

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!

Blessed are you, Jesus Christ,
Word made flesh, making all things new.

Blessed are you, Jesus Christ!

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit,

dissolving every chain of sin that binds us,
rebuking every power that enslaves,
purifying our hearts,
challenging every action not moved by love,
and setting all creation free.

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit.

Blessed are you, El Shaddai,
feeding your people,
gathering us like lambs in your arms,
and leading us to life eternal.

Blessed are you, El Shaddai!

We know the end that lies before us and all things:
The elemental powers of this universe shall be burned away,
the heavens vaporized,
the earth and all our doings exposed for all to see.

We know the end, and we tremble.

We also know your promise,
out of conflagration to re-create,
out of chaos to re-order,
out of such destruction to renew.

We know your promise, and we rejoice.

We rejoice, for you are with us,
coming to us in flesh long ago,
coming into our flesh in bread and cup at this, Christ's table,
coming into this world
through your Church in the power of the Spirit,
and coming again to complete what you have begun,
and now feed us to continue.

Feed us, O God.

Feed us as Jesus fed his disciples on the night he was betrayed,
taking bread, blessing you, breaking it,
saying to those to whom he gave it:

This is my body given for you.

Take, eat, and remember me.

Quench our thirst now as Jesus did that night,
taking cup, giving thanks to you,
and saying to those to whom he gave it:

This is my blood poured out for you.

Drink, and remember me.

Only you can feed us, God.

Only you can make us holy.

Only you can prepare us for the end to come.

Only you can purify our hearts.

So come, Holy Spirit,
on these gifts of bread and juice,
and on us.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Feed us with the bread that lasts forever,
the body of Christ.

Slake our thirst with the cup of immortality,
the blood of Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit.

And so nourish us in holy living,
today and all our days,
that on that day
when all things are recreated,
and on these days
as we wait for the fullness to come,
the world may see and know in us
the love that moves the universe
to its true end in new beginning
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

By him, with him, and in him,
united in the power of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours,
seated upon the Throne,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SHARING THE LOAF AND CUP

The Lord's Prayer

THE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

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 Peace That Dimly Shines*

729 (tune # 496 – Sweet Hour of Prayer)

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

**We delight in your love and salvation, Lord,
there can be no greater gifts than these.**

**We will gladly serve you
in holiness and righteousness.**

We offer ourselves.

We offer all that you have provided us.

**May it be used to bring your light
to those who dwell in darkness.**

Prepare us and complete us, Lord. Amen.

* BENEDICTION

* *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

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*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 ~