BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10:30 a.m. Sunday 29 November 2026
First Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements (*To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew}*

*Greeting**: Let us hear what God the Lord will speak.
God speaks peace to the people.
The Lord will always give what is good,
and God's footsteps will show our way. Amen.
(Psalm 85)

*Opening Prayer^:
Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son.
Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Church of Scotland, 20th Cent., alt.)

*Opening Hymn: 196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Blessing of the Advent Wreath^:
Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again.
Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.
Come, Lord Jesus.
That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love, ***R***
That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin. ***R***

(2)
That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ, **R**
That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus, ***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 forth 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.
(Book of Blessings, U.S.A., 20th cent.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle^: FIRST SUNDAY: ISAIAH 60:2-3
We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

Response: 2090 *(Verse 1 only)* "Light the Advent Candle"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalter: (Page 801) *(Response 1)* Psalm 80

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*Hymn of Preparation: 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *(verses 1-4)*

*Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 882 “The Apostles' Creed, *Ecum.verion”*

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Children's Time

*The Peace: Let us offer one another signs
of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering

*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication^^:
Let us pray
**Loving God, we bring these gifts
to help those who feel excluded.
We dedicate this offering to your creation
and to all of your people, regardless of income,
education, gender, race, sexual orientation,
age or physical ability.
We ask you to accept these gifts
in the name and spirit of the Christ
who welcomes them all.
Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*Benediction^^:
Sisters and brothers, we are not dismissed.
We are not just free to go.
We are sent.-+
**We go in the power of the Spirit
to love and to serve; to help and to heal.**

Go with the love and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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