

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

Greeting: You know what time it is,
**how it is now the moment
for you to wake from sleep.**
For salvation is nearer to us now
than when we became believers;
the night is far gone, the day is near.
Let us then lay aside the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light. *(Romans 13:11-12)*

*Selected Carols

*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: 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Blessing of the Advent Wreath*:
Christ came to bring us salvation
and has promised to come again.

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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**

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"

Moments with Youth

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalter: 845 *(Response 1)* Psalm 122

Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14

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*Hymn of Preparation: 426(*Tune 378*) "Behold a Broken World"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 882 "The Apostles' Creed,
Ecumenical Version"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

*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/Offertory

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving:
Thank you for bringing us together,
for our blessings,
for this new season of Advent,
and for your hope in us, that we promise to use well,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer: Page 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 729 (*Tune: 496*) "O Day of Peace
That Dimly Shines"

*Blessing: 665 (*Sing three times*) "Go Now in Peace"

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* Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude, Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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