

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 a.m. Sunday 30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

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

Lighting of candles and prelude

Praise choruses: Selected carols

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**

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.

(2)

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

Youth moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for listening ears

First lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalter: 845 *(Response 1)* Psalm 122

Second lesson: Romans 13:11-14

Song: 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

Gospel lesson: Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon

Joys, concerns, prayers

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNON (Page 15ff)

All Are Welcome

SENDING FORTH

Song: 722 "I Want to Be Ready"

Blessing: 201 "Advent"

Postlude and extinguishing of candles/Going forth

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