

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 28 November 2021**

***First Sunday of Advent/United Methodist Student Sunday***

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

\*Greeting\*\*:  
To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls  
**O God, in you we trust.**  
Lead us in your truth,  
**For you are the God of our salvation.** *(Psalm 25)*

\* Selected Carols

\*Opening Prayer\*\*:  
**Almighty God, in whose truth we find the way to salvation:  
Purify our consciences by your daily visitation,  
that when your Son our Lord comes, he may find  
in us a mansion prepared for him;  
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.** *(Gelasian Sacramentary, Alt. TJC)*

Moments of Silent Reflection and Prayer in the Spirit of Advent

Blessing of the Advent Wreath^: *("The Advent wreath is a simple  
circle of evergreen branches, a sign of life without end; its four  
Advent candles encircle a central white Christ candle.")*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**those who lived in a land of deep darkness --- on them  
light has shined.** *(Isaiah 9:2)*  
**Come, Lord Jesus..**

(2)

**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, USA, 20th Cent.)*

Lighting of the Advent Candle^:

FIRST SUNDAY: ISAIAH 60:2-3  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**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: Jeremiah 33:14-16  
*Jeremiah's prophecy of the restoration of Jerusalem. God  
reveals that Messiah will come and execute justice  
and righteousness.\*\**

Psalter: 756 *(Response 2)* Psalm 25:1-10  
*David's prayer for guidance and protection.  
He seeks the ways of God  
trusting that the way will be made clear.\*\**

(3)

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Paul reacts to Timothy's reports of the faithfulness of the Church at Thessalonika, and gives thanks for their works. He proclaims that the Lord will come in glory; they need not fear because their forgiveness counts them as blameless.\*\**

\*Hymn of Preparation: 216 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming "

\*Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

*Luke foretells the return of Christ. He reminds his readers that, as the natural world reveals the change of seasons, so do the signs of the times reveal the coming of God's reign. Therefore, "be alert."\*\*\**

Sermon: "Be on guard."

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: 694 (*Verses 2 & 4 only*) "Come, Ye  
Thankful People, Come"

(4)

### SENDING FORTH

\*Closing Hymn: 157 "Jesus Shall Reign"

\*Closing Prayer: 201 (Unison) "Advent"

\*Extinguishing of Candles/Postlude/ Going Forth \_\_\_\_\_

\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

\*\*Copyright (C) 1994 by The Order of Saint Luke

^The United Methodist Book of Worship, Copyright (C) 1992 The  
United Methodist Publishing House