

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 1 December 2024**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**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)*

\*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.

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

(2)

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"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalter: 756 *(Response 2)* Psalm 25:1-10

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

\*Hymn of Preparation: 221 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

\*Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

(3)

Hymn of Response: 455 "Not So in Haste, My Heart"

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

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 12ff)**

***All are welcome at the Lord's table***

**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 198 "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

\*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

\*Going Forth

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\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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