

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 a.m. Sunday 1 December 2024

First Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

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

Lighting of candles and prelude

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.

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

(2)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for listening ears: 164 "Come, My Way, My Truth,
My Life" *(Verse 1 only)*

First lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

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

Second lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

Gospel lesson: Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

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

Joys, concerns, prayers

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff)

All are welcome

SENDING FORTH

Song: 221 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Blessing: 664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Postlude and extinguishing of candles/Going forth

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