



*“Come, let us go up to
the mountain of the LORD...
that he may teach us his
ways and that we may
walk in his paths.”*

Isaiah 2:3, NRSV

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Sunday November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

**indicates that you are invited to stand.*

You may choose to rise up in spirit only if that is better for you.

*You are invited to read aloud the **bold-face** print.*

Please register your attendance in the red folio and pass it toward the outside aisle. After all have signed, pass it back to the center.

PRELUDE

GREETINGS

God is good **all the time.**

All the time **God is good.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUESTION OF THE DAY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

that we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

***HYMN #206 *UMH* "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE DAY

OFFERING (*November gifts for mission support the UM Student Day offering.*)

Offertory

***Song of Offering #2007 FWS** “Holy, Holy, Holy” (*sing twice*)

***Prayer of Dedication**

Lord, we come to bring the works of our hands, the gifts of our lives, the gratitude and joy in our hearts as an offering of praise and thanksgiving to you. Amen.

MESSAGE

“Big Picture”

Rev. Joyce Rich

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Announce the good news of Jesus Christ; prepare the way for Christ’s witness to be heard.

We turn our hearts and minds toward God.

We rejoice that we can be servants in Christ’s name.

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the Spirit’s joy surround you as you walk in the light of the Lord.

Amen. **And Amen.**

***HYMN #2235-a FWS** “We Are Singing”

(*v. 1 singing; v. 2 praying; v. 3 walking*)

***POSTLUDE**

Liturgical resources drawn from: Led by Love by Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion Year A, Volume 1, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long © 2013 Westminster John Knox; and Awaiting the Already, by Magrey R. deVega © 2015 Abingdon Press.

***THE ADVENT WREATH**

A conversation between friends.

The first candle is lit.

Unison Prayer

God of power and love, thank you for the life and work of John the Baptist, who calls us even today to slow down, to pay attention, and prepare for the coming of Christ. Help us to live sacramentally, to experience the grace of God in every moment. Amen.

***HYMN #209 UMH** “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** *Please extend the peace of Christ to those around you.*

CHILDREN OF GOD TIME

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 *NRSV*

Mark 1:1-8 *NRSV*

***HYMN #2089 FWS** “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

TIME OF PRAYER

How Is It With Your Soul?

Lifting of Prayer Requests

Unison Prayer

O God, while we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking to act as faithful followers. Help us to serve as a vital resource to others who are looking for meaning and hope in their lives. May we share good news, reach out with comfort and practical help, and generously share the gifts you have entrusted to us. Hear us as we lift up our prayers to you.

(Time of silent prayer.)

As Jesus taught us, so we pray:

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.