



“Do Not be Afraid to Hold Hope”

November 29, 2020

Online greet time 9:15 a.m., worship begins at 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Faith United Methodist Church

1530 Oakdale Avenue

West St. Paul, Minnesota 55118

651-457-5686 - Website: www.faithumcmn.com



We hope in this time you will experience God's love and grace.

Gathering and Praise

Prelude

Choral Call to Worship

“Come, Little Children”

W&S 3055 vv. 1-2

*Come, little children, to the silent manger. Come, little children, see the mystery.
Come, little children, to the little stranger. Come, little children, to nativity.
Come, little children, to the little brother. Come, little children, hear the baby cry.
Come, little children, see the Mary mother. Come, little children, see the star on high.*

Call to Worship

*One: Not in the mighty places of power,
but in little Bethlehem,
in a room out back:*

Many: The Messiah is coming.

*One: Not born in nobility and wealth,
but of Mary and Joseph,
who pondered and planed wood:*

Many: The Messiah is coming.

*One: Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings,
but by two women,
who were the first to know:*

Many: The Messiah is coming.

*One: Nothing will be impossible for God,
but when and where we least expect it,
look among the straw and the stars:*

Many: The Messiah is coming.

*Hymn of Praise

“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

“UMH 215

Opening Prayer

**Many: Gracious God,
Your vision of peace and wholeness
comes to us in sweeping revelations
and in tiny signs of hope.
Kindle our hearts that we may be a hopeful people
Keep us from growing weary of waiting
lest we miss the glory of your appearing.
Even so, come quickly, O God. AMEN.**

Special Music

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

HOPE (Based on Psalm 80)

*One: We light our first Advent candle, a symbol of Hope. [Light one candle on the wreath]
Like a single candle lit in the darkness,
hope can sometimes be a fragile, flickering thing...*

Many: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

The Doxology

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Many: You deliver us, O God,
from exile, separation, and despair
into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news.
We thank you for all that draws us close together,
astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude.

Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day
and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of those
who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Hope of the World”

UMH 178

Benediction

Choral Benediction

“The King of Glory Comes”

FWS 2091

*(Refrain): The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.
1. Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. (Refrain)
2. In all of Galilee, in city or village,
he goes among his people curing their illness. (Refrain)
3. Sing then of David’s son, our Savior and brother;
in all of Galilee was never another. (Refrain)*

Postlude

— Worship is over. The service begins. —



Liturgy citation:

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Opening Prayer: Written by Robert C. Oliphant from Worship & Song Worship Resources #2.
2020 Advent Wreath Liturgy Written by Rev. Bethany Willers.