

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

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## Prelude

“Patapan”

Bernard de La Monnoye

## Centering Bell

^ Welcome One Another

Rev. Janessa Chastain

^ Hymn

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

UMH 206

## ^ Lighting the Advent Wreath

Reader One: Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah: “In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it...He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

Reader Two: Our hope is in God, who will bring all nations together.

Reader One: As we wait faithfully for God’s time, we light the candle of Hope.

Reader Two: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

## Lighting the Advent Wreath Hymn

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

UMH 211 V. 1

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Liturgist

## Pastoral Prayer

## Lord's Prayer

## Offertory

“Mary Did You Know?”

Mark Lowry

^ Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 95

## Anthem

## Scripture

“Luke 1:5-20”

## Sermon

“Say Yes to Hope”

Rev. Janessa Chastain

## Service of Communion

Leader: God is with us

**People: We are not alone**

Leader: Christ is present here

**People: The Spirit moves within us**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God

**People: In memory and in hope**

Leader: Blessings be to you, Creator God,

Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

**People: Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.**

Leader: Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love.

But even when they have closed their ears to the song you did not stop singing.

You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

**People: They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.**

Leader: And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way

**People: Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus**

**Promising her that in her son the world would be changed**

Leader: And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

**People: O come, O come Emmanuel**

Leader: And also we lift our voices together, joining in the unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy, lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby will live.

**People: We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be as he ate openly with the despised and the outcast of his world.**

Leader: And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

**People: Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them for liberation.**

Leader: And at the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying:

**People: Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.**

Leader: After that he took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

**People: This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet.**

Leader: Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also his life, his death and his resurrection.

**People: We remember how he poured his love out all he met and look forward to his return and the coming reign of**

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peace, love, and justice.

Leader: And in our remembering we proclaim the mystery of

**People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Leader: God, you poured your Spirit on Mary and she sang words of defiance and hope.

Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here. As we eat and drink may we know your presence.

As we eat and drink may we be opened to the possibilities of your hope and power

And may we be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice so that we will have the courage to make the Christmas promise a reality.

**People: Amen!**

## ^ Our Response

“There’s a Song in the Air”

UMH 249

## ^ Benediction

Rev. Janessa Chastain

## Postlude

“Advent is Here”

Matthew Marino