

## Sunday, November 27, 2022

*First Sunday of Advent*

**Prelude** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”, PLAINSONG; “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”, Geistliche Kirchengesäng; “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”, Rowland H. Prichard; “Thou Dids't Leave Thy Throne”, Timothy R. Matthews; “I Wonder As I Wander”, Traditional Appalachian Melody

### Welcome

#### **\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Leader: People of God, where do we put our trust?  
Where do we find wholeness and meaning?**

People: We lift up our eyes to the hills.  
Our help comes from the Creator of heaven and earth.

**\*\*Leader: We are sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah.  
We trust God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps.**

People: We are followers of Jesus, who proclaimed God's realm.  
We are born of the Spirit, born from above.

**\*\*Leader: Our lives are a gift from God, who loves us.  
By the grace of God, we are born anew each day.**

People: God loved the world in the gift of Jesus Christ.  
Through faith in Christ, we receive eternal life.

**Opening Songs**      *“The God of Abraham Praise”*      UMC Hymn #116

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

**Reader One:** “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” (Psalm 122:1 NRSV)

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kingdom to come.

**Reader One:** “Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God’s ways and that we may walk in Gods paths’” (Isaiah 2:3 NRSV).

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God’s people for the promise to be fulfilled.

*Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.*

Prayers, the Lord’s Prayer and Offering of Gifts

**\*\*Invitation:** The faithful that sustains us is not a commodity to be hoarded and protected. Rather, faith is an active, dynamic relationship which God calls us to share with one another, not just in the church, but with everyone, Our offerings make possible faithful ministries within the church and our outreach in the world.

**\*\*Will you pray with me?** Thank you, God, for glimpses of eternity in the daily experiences of life. We are grateful for encounters that lift the horizons of our vision. We rejoice in the teaching and care you have provided to us. Bless now the gifts we return to you for the programs and outreach of the church. We want to share our faith with the world. We pray for trustful relationships among all your children. We rejoice together in the saving ministry of Jesus that inspires us to give our best. Amen.

**Joy of Christmas**    *“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”*    Advent Choir

**\*\*Scripture Reading**                      **Genesis 12:1-9**                      **NRSV**

**Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’**

**So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.**

**This is the word of God, for the people of God. Thanks be to God.**

**Message**    *“To Go From and Come To: Abraham and Sarah”*

Pastor Jeff Williams

**Closing Song**    *“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”*    UMC Hymnal #128

**Postlude**                      *“The Holly and the Ivy”*, Traditional