



December 1, 2024
 First Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER

CENTERING

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

PRELUDE

Padre Nuestro (Our Father)

Composer: James Southbridge (living)
 Based on a fragment of a Catalan folk-carol
 Ann Bartlow, Organ

WELCOME

Pam Kessler, Chair, Church Council

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

LeRoy Walters, Liturgist

ONE:	In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?
ALL:	Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.
ONE:	Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.
ALL:	May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.
ONE:	May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING RESPONSE

Magnificat

Composer: Jacques Berthier; from Taize

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

LeRoy Walters, Liturgist

ONE:	God says,
ALL:	"Do not be afraid.
ONE:	God says,
ALL:	"I have called you by name."
ONE:	God says,
ALL:	"You are precious and honored in my sight."
ONE:	At the beginning of this season
ALL:	at the start of this week,
ONE:	at the top of the hour,
ALL:	may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.
ONE:	Let us worship our Holy God!

WORD

ANTHEM

A Virgin Unspotted

Composer: William Billings, 1746-1800,

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brian Jones, Quarters for Kids

CONFESSION AND PARDON

LeRoy Walters, Liturgist

ONE:	<p>Call to Confession:</p> <p>In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?" Everytime we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me? Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck. Let us pray:</p>
ALL:	<p>PRAYER OF CONFESSION:</p> <p>Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, amen.</p>
ONE:	<p>WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:</p> <p>Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah: God says,</p>
ALL:	<p>"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."</p>
ONE:	<p>We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.</p>
ALL:	<p>Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.</p>

PASSING THE PEACE

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

***HYMN #197**

Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus

Words: Stanzas 1-3 Vincent Stucky Stratton Coles; stanza 4 F. Bland Tucker, 1982 (Luke 1:26-55)

Music: David Hurd, 1983

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, Organ

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LeRoy Walters, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 43:1-7

LeRoy Walters, Liturgist

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Pre-recorded

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

WONDER

MISSION MOMENT

Giving Tuesday

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

OFFERTORY PRAYER

LeRoy Walters, Liturgist

WHAT NOW

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

**ALL: 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.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*HYMN #211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-4)

Words: 9th century Latin; trans. Stanzas 1, 3 *The Hymnal*, 1940; stanza 2 Henry Sloan Coffin, 1916; stanza 4 Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986

Music: 15th century French; arr. and harm.: Thomas Helmore, 1854

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, organ

SENDING FORTH

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

(Now come, Savior of the Gentiles)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Composer: Paul Kickstat

Orgelbüchlein

Composer: J. S. Bach, 1685 - 1750

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 599

Ann Bartlow, organ

SERVING US TODAY

Acolytes: Cora Miller

Altar Guild for December: Nancy Kneisly and Alma Rines

Audio Visual Volunteers: Aaron Dowd, Brian Hahs and Eric Winchenbach

Chat Room Host: Mary Stark

Congregational Welcome: Pam Kessler

Fellowship Hosts: Tim Evans and Sara Romeyn

Liturgist: LeRoy Walters

Nursery Staff: Tessa Ricketts

Sunday School Teachers -Elementary Grades: Bonnie Campbell and Dawn Adair Johnson

Sunday School Teachers – Middle School Grades: Dave Cope and Chuck Spencer

Welcome Team: Bill Beisner and

FAITH UMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

Ann Bartlow, Organist

André Coleman, Tenor Section Leader

Valerie Kunsman, Office Administrator

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

Curtis Osborne, Coordinator of Intergenerational Nurture

Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff

Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator

Kim Webster, Finance Manager

Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director

Acknowledgements: Lighting the Advent Wreath, Confession and Pardon, Prayer for Illumination, Affirmation of Faith and Sending Forth: Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org; Offertory Prayer: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/come-home-for-christmas/first-sunday-of-advent-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/first-sunday-of-advent-year-c-offertory-prayers>. Christian Copyright Licensing International #20292994