

1818 TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2023

Rev. Ted Buehl, Pastor

December 10, 2023 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Words for Meditation

*Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.
And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple;
and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold,
he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.* Malachi 3:1

Prelude "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

Welcome

Announcements/Church in Action

Lighting the Advent Candle:

Leader: ...the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:10)

People: **We light these candles as a symbol of Christ, our Joy.
Make the joyful promise of Your presence, O God;
Make us rejoice in Our Hope of Salvation!
O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

***Hymn:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH #224

Invocation

God our Father, You have brought us again to this glad season when we celebrate the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that the Spirit may be born anew in our hearts, and that we joyfully welcome His reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our

lips that we too may sing with uplifted hearts. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11, NRSV

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the People of God!

People: Thanks be to God.

OUR RESPONSE

Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH 204

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology:** #95

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, author of all goodness, who has entrusted us with material possessions and made us stewards of Your bounty; accept the offerings which now we render unto You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Liturgist: This is the Good News of the Gospel.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise: "Heralds of Christ" UMH 567

Children's Message
Message: "Preparing for Christ" Rev. Ted Buehl

SENDING

***Closing Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH #211 v. 1-4

***Benediction**

***Postlude** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Altar Flowers: "My Family"
Given by Laurie Wilson



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*"We are a welcoming church family,
worshipping together and serving with love"*