

Oak Forest UMC Worship

First Sunday of Advent - November 29th, 2020

Drive-In— tune to 100.7FM to listen

Call to Worship with the Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader 1: If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

Reader 2: The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

Reader 1: We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

-From UMC Discipleship Ministries written by Derek Weber

Opening Hymn

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” UMH 196

Verse 1: Come thou long expected Jesus
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Verse 2: Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Pastoral Prayer with the Lord's Prayer

Scripture

Isaiah 7: 2b-7

Sermon

“Wonderful Counselor”

Closing Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” UMH 211

Verse 1: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and
ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son
of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

Verse 2: O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in
her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.

Benediction

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Prayer List

November 29th- December 5th, 2020

JOYS

Missions: Angel Tree Ministry; Donna Love Deliveries, BEAR Closet, Homeless ministry monthly meals, Helping Hands outreach, Flour and sugar donations to shelter;

Individuals: November and December birthdays and anniversaries, those healing from COVID, those healing from surgery, those with new jobs and opportunities, college kids home,

Church: After school, Full day, and preschool programs at Oak Forest,

CONCERNS

Individuals: Ken and Judy Clodfelter; Mabel Jones, Sue Alexander, Bob and Rita Waite, Jeannie Ellington; Gale Sicard, Donna Kay Brown Odrosky, Jean Everhart, Estelle Sizemore, Cathy Smith, Randy White, Nell Lanier

Those who are grieving: family of Dennis Griffin, Cathy Smith's cousin; All those who continue to walk the lonely journey of mourning

Homebound: Sherman Ramsey, John and Betty McGee, Joanne Lomax, Linda Owen (JD), Ann and Sherwood Rettmann, Ben Sink (Sylvia), Betty Capps (Theresa Capps-daughter), Phyllis Everhart (Buck)

Special Care Facilities: Cornelia Motsinger, Dean Doar, Roseanne Marion, Campbell McInnis, and Nancy Ratledge

Receiving treatment or recovering from cancer treatment: Al Alexander, Kathryn Fowler, Jim Shoaf, James Griffin (nephew of Cathy Smith) Gerri Dee Crummet, Jeannie Ellington, Carol Barber

COVID-19 concerns: Bill and Dorothy Shaw, Dennis Anthony's sister and brother in law, Bill Ellington, confidential family with COVID, surges of new cases throughout the nation

Nation and World: That we can be united and move to a new normal as a nation; those traveling across the nation for the upcoming holidays; Civil Wars that are erupted in places like Syria and Ethiopia,

Announcements

1. **The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts Bible Study and daily scriptures!**
We have a weekly Bible study on the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. It is posted on Wednesdays on our Facebook page. Along with the study, there will be daily scriptures and a question to think about every day and a weekly Bible study. If you are not receiving the daily scriptures and want them, please reach out to the church office.
2. **We need you to help Christmas Joy to our homebound!!** On December 13th at 3pm, we will meet at the church and drive to the homes of those who aren't able to worship with us. We will gather in their yards and sing 3-4 Christmas carols and wish them a Merry Christmas. You don't have to be in the choir or praise band to participate. Everyone can make a joyful noise to the Lord!
3. **Angel Tree Donations -** Every year, we work with our community and the local schools to identify children who are in need of Christmas gift assistance. In the past, we have provided Christmas to over 30 individuals! We need your help to make this year just as special as it has been in the past. if you would like to help with the Angel Tree Ministry please reach out to Tim Bryan at 336-416-2647.
4. **Christmas Eve Luminary Walk and Devotional- December 24th at 5PM,** we will have a special devotional outside that will kick off a luminary walk/drive through the parking lot as you hear the story of Jesus' birth. The luminary walk/drive will end with a Christmas goodie bag sponsored by our children's and youth ministry. If you would like to volunteer to be a reader, greeter, or participate in any way, please reach out to Pastor Julie, Ben Roop, or Linda Anthony.