

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 2024 **11:00 AM**

PRELUDE, GATHERING, *Take Time to Be Holy* **395**
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS -

December 24 – 7pm Christmas Eve Worship (9pm at Urbana)
December 31 – First Sunday of Christmas, with Pat Huff
January 5 – Observing Epiphany, with Rev. Linda Yarrow

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION adapted from St. Jerome

Lord, you have given us the scriptures to illumine our path;
grant us so to meditate on these sacred words,
and to follow your instruction,
that by your Spirit we may discern the True Light
that shines more and more until the perfect day;
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *from Discipleship Ministries*
Scripture Reading : Luke 1:68-79

*The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send,
a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation.
"For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner
and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and
refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD
in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).*

*Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status
quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to
those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to
God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect
God's love throughout the earth.*

*We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment
to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts,
our families, our communities, and throughout the earth
until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day,
for we need you. We cannot save ourselves.
Though we may be frantic with activity,
our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give.
Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice.
Today we would be still enough to feel your touch.
Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give,
wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak.
Our whole world needs your peace.
Let us come before you and learn your ways,
laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry.
Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

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*On this second Sunday of Advent, we again light the candle of hope
and we add to it, the Candle of Peace
>>>Light 2 candles.<<<*

HYMN: *The Candle of Hope*, stanza 2, (uses #73)
by Carolyn Gillette, used with permission (as published on her website.)
**The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.**

CHOIR: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* **196**
SCRIPTURE LESSON Philippians 1:3-11
SERMON

HYMN *Blessed Be the God of Israel* **209**
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE -

INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*With joy and gratitude for all we have been given,
in token of our lives, we offer our tithes and gifts to God.*

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER

GBoD/DM

Loving God, in this Advent season,
we bring our offerings with hearts open to your call.
Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus,
may our gifts help prepare the way for your kingdom.
Use these offerings to bring
hope, justice, and transformation.
Help us to look beyond the surface,
to see your work in surprising places and people.
Bless our giving, that it may shine
with the presence of Emmanuel.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

220

PRAYER & SENDING

Matthew A Rich at PO

*Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil,
grant us the tranquility that only your peace can bring.
Help us to be instruments of reconciliation and harmony
in our relationships and communities. Amen*

Amen

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

213

Bulletin Credits: *Some of the Liturgy is by the pastor (dwh)*

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- or **GBoD** - via Discipleship Ministries, from the Worship Website.
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>
- or **FotW** - from Feasting on the Word (see also insert)
- or **TMO/PO** - written by Teri McDowell Ott, from Presbyterian Outlook
- <https://pres-outlook.org>

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Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary
Year C – Advent 2; December 8, 2024

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Scriptures

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Questions for Reflection:

The prophet Malachi says that God is “like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap” (Mal. 3:2). Reflect on events of the past year. How has God been working to refine and purify your life or your community of faith?

Paul writes to the church at Philippi: “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil.1:3-5). Think about people in your life for whom you give thanks, who have been in your prayers, and who have brought good news and joy to you this year. Consider writing them a letter or card to express your gratitude.

Morning Prayers:

Blessed are you, Lord God:
by your tender mercy the dawn breaks upon us.
Guide our feet this day in paths of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evening Prayers:

Blessed are you, Lord God:
for you have smiled on us this day
and redeemed us from our sin.
Give light to all who wait in darkness
until we rest with you in perfect peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

