

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

November 29, 2020

Welcome to All

If you are a guest, we welcome you to worship and ask that you consider filling out a contact form at www.stjohnsbr.org/guest so we can be in touch with you this week.



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

We Gather

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Lighting of Advent Candle - Hope

Mike & Jackie Creed

Soloist:

*I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,
even when, even when it's not shining.*

Holy One,

we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of untiring hope.

Even in the midst of fear,

of challenge, of struggle—

even when our view is obscured

by clouds of doubt,

ignite the flame of hope within us,

**that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out. Amen.**

Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

**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.**

**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.**

The Peace

We Proclaim

Children's Time to Shine

Pastor Lane, Beth Forester
Carissa Murray, Cadee Murray

Prophetic Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Rev. Latrice Mallard

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Advent Response Song

He Came Down

He came down that we may have hope;

He came down that we may have hope;

He came down that we may have hope;

Hallelujah for evermore.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-15

Pastor Lane

Sermon

"I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow"

Pastor Lane

We Respond

Litany of Belief

In times when humanity disappoints,
perhaps when even our own thoughts
and behaviors disappoint,

it is an important act to call out,

name and claim the consequences of our wrongs.

And in times of distress, it is a prophetic act to call out,

name and claim the belief in our hope for tomorrow,

which is in Christ Jesus.

*Join me responsively in these statements of belief which
come from this coming week's Advent devotions, written
by members of our congregation:*

When a pandemic has the world locked down,
and our spirits feel locked up,

We believe in God's hope.

When life changes so quickly,
when we are faced with so much loss and injustice,

We believe in God's hope.

When we feel stretched, or diminished
and are so very tired of waiting,

We believe in God's hope.

Give ear to your people, O God.

Let us not lose hope this Advent Season.

**We place our hope in you and
turn our hearts once more to your coming.**

Litany Response Song

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online here:
<http://www.stjohnsbr.org/give>

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him all creatures here below;
praise Him above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

We Go Forth

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Carol of Hope

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light
I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.
REFRAIN
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

REFRAIN

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

REFRAIN

Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Latrice

We wait for justice
but we do not wait to work for change;
We wait for restored health
but we do not wait to work towards healing;
We wait for wholeness
but we do not wait to work at binding
brokenness;
We wait for peace
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the good news
that the sun still shines, even on cloudy days, fill the
darkness left by sadness with messages of Hope.

Go into your lives humming the tunes
that keep that Hope alive in you,
and that spur you on in your work of justice
and reconciliation.

Raise your voices and repeat after me

"Do not be afraid!"

"Do not be afraid!" Amen!

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us!

*The flowers on the altar are from Richard and Marilyn
Damberg in honor of Grace Idikwu on her 15th birthday.*

*We thank all our worship stewards, musicians,
tech team, ushers, and hosts for assisting in today's service.*

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*Some liturgy adapted from Worship Design Studio
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