

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4th, 2016 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

GATHERING

Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship

This is a time of year when patience yields to frustration, fulfillment turns to greed, and enough simply becomes not enough. In these days of excess, we wonder how we can ever change our understanding of God's provision—for us, our families, friends and strangers alike. Where is the justice in it all?

[Light the first candle.]

Because our God is a God of justice, we too are a people of justice, and inequality will not rule our land. The poor will live with the rich, the adult will learn from the child, and God's provision will be enough. We light this candle today to provide a reminder that even a small flame is enough to cast light all around it—assurance that our work for justice can speak with the voice of God.

[Light the second candle.]

One: And so we offer this mysterious prayer:

ALL: Lord Jesus, quickly come.

*Hymn #203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Opening Prayer

Holy God, we gather with expectation and hope as we approach the advent of your Son, Jesus of Nazareth, whose coming was foretold by prophets of old. Grant that through the singing of your praise, and hearing of your Word, we may be prepared for another encounter with the Living Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Psalter Reading – Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Hymnal, Page 795
Response 1

*Gloria Patri #70

Epistle Reading – Romans 15:4-13

*Hymn #3045 (insert)

Down by the Jordan

*Gospel Reading – Matthew 3:1-12

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Message

Sermon - "Prepare the Way of Justice"

Pastor Alan

RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith #881 – The Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People

The Pastor will lift up a series of petitions. After each petition:

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our Prayer.

Invitation

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (UMH, #890)

*Passing of the Peace

Offering & Offertory

The New Gift of Love
Sanctuary Choir

Stephens

*Doxology (UMH #95)

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

*The Great Thanksgiving (UMH, pg. 17, Setting A)

*The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Prayer After Receiving (UMH, pg. 11)

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn #211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Benediction

*Postlude

**For those who are able, please stand*