

# MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

## First Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

### Arrival of God's Kingdom

Prelude and Tolling of the Bell

Coming of the Light

Welcome and Announcements: Life and Work of the Community

Call to Worship: A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
**make straight in the desert a highway for our God!**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer of Confession

**Forgive us, Lord, for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord of All. Help us live into our baptisms. Remind us of the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and empower us to be the continuation of that Good News. Amen.**

*- (all offer prayers of confession in silence) -*

Assurance of Pardon

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved. With the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. When we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just forgives us our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

\*Hymn of Vigilance... "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".....#211

\*Psalter..... "Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19".....UMH 795

\*Hymn..... "Glory Be to the Father".....#71

Children's Message..... "Jesus Loves Me".....#191

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Blessing and Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

\*Passing the Peace

† Anthem.....BUMC Chancel Choir

### Appearance of God

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson.....Isaiah 11:1-10

New Testament Lesson.....Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon....."Return to the Wilderness"

### Approaching God

\*Hymn of Proclamation... "Heralds of Christ".....#567

\*Affirmation of Faith.... "The Apostles' Creed".....#881

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology.....#95

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Advancement of God's Kingdom

\*Hymn of Joy..... "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".....#240

\*Dismissal with Blessing- Benediction

\*Going Forth of the Light

\*Postlude

*\*Please stand as you are able*

*† Bethel UMC only*

### Announcements & Upcoming Events:

- ❖ **Today** the PPRC Team will meet at 3pm in Bethel Choir Room.
- ❖ **Tomorrow** The Covenant Prayer group will meet at 11am.
- ❖ **The Epworth Children's Home Christmas Drop off will be open 8am-6pm Mon. Dec. 9 – Fri. Dec. 13.** To see the Christmas Wish List or the General Campus Wish List go to: <https://www.epworthchildrenshome.org/christmas/>
- ❖ **Tuesday Dec. 24 at 6pm** we will have our Christmas Eve Service. Communion will be served.
- ❖ Those volunteering for the upcoming spring Good News Club afterschool program at Fairfield Elementary & Richard Winn will need to meet with me after today's service to go over some important information.

### Lectionary Readings for (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent):

Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 1:47-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

### **Our Mission Statement:**

***The mission of Bethel United Methodist Church & Monticello UMC is to***

***make each and every man, woman, and child whom we reach aware of God's love for them as it is revealed to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and to give them an opportunity to worship and to serve our Lord.***

The Churches Are in Prayer For:

**Monticello UMC-** Carol & Ray Ball, Elen Bradley, Mack Bradley, Allen Brock, Sammie Burley, the Cassellas Family, Darlene Coker, Robert Davis, Noelani Dirnbauer, Nita Goff, Lenny Goldman, Lindsey Gunter & the Gunter family, Sandra Harrison, Carolyn Hinson, Jenny and Quinn Kaderly, Kevin Knight, Bobby Mack, Sam Mack, Kenny Martin, Sharon Marler, Audrey Miles, Will Pope, Anne Robinson, Margaret Robinson, Marion Robinson, Eddie & Sybil Robinson, Carole Sinkbeil, Bruno Schrieber, James Shugart, Calvin Stanley, Peggy Steller

**Bethel UMC-** Loen Arrington, Joan Baber, Bob Bazinet, Betty Jo & Harry James Beckham, Donovan Cassellas & the Cassellas family, Sherry Crosby, Billy and Diane Dove, Cathy Estes, Stephen Keller, Lila Lake, Paul Leitner, Frank Martin, Jackie McDaniel, Debra Obert, Sherrill Perry, Greg Robertson, Pastor Terry Roof & The Roof Family, Sonja & Liz Rogers, Anne Stewart, Ford Sweeney, Toby Warpole, unity in our county, state, nation, and world.

Special Thanks for:

Music

Monticello UMC Pianist, Dorcas Ligon

† Bethel UMC Pianist, Ben Hornsby & BUMC Choir:

John Glass, Lewis Hobgood, Melinda Truesdale, and Carol Martig

**The Advent Wreath** is circular and evergreen, signifying God's eternity and endless mercy without end. The four candles represent Jesus' light for a dark and sinful world and our call to reflect the light and grace of God in the world. The purple candle represents the penitent spirit. The one pink candle symbolizes joy. One of the four candles is lit for each Sunday of Advent. In the center is the one white candle called the Christ Candle and will be lit on Christmas Eve.

**The Chrismon Tree** at the altar is given to the glory of God as we prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, The Light of the World.

† **December Security**

John Glass

The Fairfield Circuit United Methodist Churches welcome all who enter to worship here. Our prayer is that you find us churches of having "open hearts, open minds, and open doors." If you are visiting and looking for a church to call your home, this Fairfield Circuit church invites you to prayerfully consider our family of faith. If you are a member of another United Methodist congregation or a baptized member of another denomination, we will be delighted to receive you by transfer of letter. If you have not been baptized, we would rejoice to have you proclaim your faith in Jesus Christ and begin your Christian journey with us. We welcome all requests to consider membership and we are more than happy to visit with you at your invitation.

**James B. Rogers, Pastor**

**Ministers: All Members**

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