



**First United Methodist Church
Downtown**

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Service of Morning Worship

December 8, 2024

INTROIT

Arise and Shine

Larry Shackley

Arise and shine! Arise and shine!
For your light is come, your light is come,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

WELCOME

* HYMN OF PRAISE

No. 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

People: That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,

Leader: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,

People: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ. Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: We light the first candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope and the second candle as a symbol of Christ our Peace. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

People: O Come, O come, Emmanuel.

* OPENING PRAYER

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*universal

* GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (11:00)

Children are invited to come forward for a message and then to Children's Worship. Preschool in Room 101 and Elementary in Rooms 208-09.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

No. 453 ***More Love to Thee, O Christ*** MORE LOVE TO THEE

PASTORAL PRAYER

*We would love to know how we can be in prayer with and for you.
Prayer requests are received by using prayer cards found at each exit
or by texting your request to 859-274-9471.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

RESPONSE ***Amen*** Robert Lau

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ***In the Bleak Midwinter*** Mark Hayes

Trey Darnell, *soloist*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God almighty Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But only His mother in her maiden bliss
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart,
My heart.

* ADVENT DOXOLOGY

IRBY

**Praise to God, the One who made us.
Praise to Christ, the newborn Son.
Praise the Spirit, ever with us.
Praise the Godhead, Three in One.
Clear a path! Prepare the way!
Advent leads to Christmas Day!**

* MEMORY VERSE

**Psalm 130:5-6 -- I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more
than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

ANTHEM ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*** David W. Music

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending from the realms of endless day,
Comes the powers of hell to vanquish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 1:3-11, NRSV

SERMON ***Worth The Wait: Purity and Blamelessness***
Notes at <http://bible.com/events/49357316>

* HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

No. 733 ***Marching to Zion*** MARCHING TO ZION

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE ***Jesus Shall Reign*** Fred Bock

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does His successive journey's run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
Amen!

POSTLUDE ***Postlude on "Gloria"*** Jason Payne

* Please stand as you are able.

The altar flowers this morning are given by the Ruby Children
in loving memory of Rev. Rod and Lida Ruby.

Nursery is available at both services in Room 103.

Listening enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available.
The ushers will be happy to provide them to you.

LEADERS OF WORSHIP IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Liturgists: Rev. Carol Cooper, Downtown Pastor
Barry Prince, Children's Ministry
Fusion Youth Ministries

Musicians: Choral Scholars (8:30)
Chancel Choir (11:00)
Glenna Metcalfe, Associate Director of Music/Organist
Dr. Brock Terry, Director of Music

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Todd Nelson, Senior Pastor

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Happy Advent! Advent is a season of expectation, of preparation, and of waiting. While the world around us has already been celebrating Christmas for weeks, we come to this season of Advent understanding it is a season of darkness, but more importantly, that in this season of darkness The Light shines for all to see. Advent is often a time people visit churches, longing to be closer to the One who is coming as a baby in a manger, so if this is your first time or you've been coming for years, please know you are among friends, and we are thankful to be worshiping alongside and with you. There are many wonderful ways to be involved in Advent, so if you're looking for a way to be involved, please reach out to one of the pastors or staff. Our desire is to help you take that next step in your discipleship whatever step that may be; we are here for you.

In Hope,



Carol Cooper, Downtown Pastor



Let us know you were here!



Our activities to be involved in and in prayer for.

- Sunday, December 8, 2024**
8:30 AM Worship service, Sanctuary
9:15 AM Kids' Choir, Room 208-09
9:50 AM Sunday School for all ages
11:00 AM Worship service, Sanctuary
6:00 PM A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Sanctuary
- Monday, December 9, 2024**
7:15 AM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Room 13
9:30 AM Journey Companions, Parsonage
- Tuesday, December 10, 2024**
7:15 AM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Room 13
7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting, Room 13
- Wednesday, December 11, 2024**
7:15 AM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Room 13
10:00 AM Advent Study-- *The Weary World Rejoices*, Room 107
6:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Room 13
7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting, Room 13
- Thursday, December 12, 2024**
7:15 AM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Room 13
8:30 AM Men's Bible Study, North Lime Coffee and Donuts –
North Limestone
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- Friday, December 13, 2024**
7:15 AM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Room 13
- Saturday, December 14, 2024**
- Sunday, December 15, 2024**
8:30 AM Worship service, Sanctuary
9:50 AM Sunday School for all ages
11:00 AM Worship service, Sanctuary
3:30 PM Ann Orr Bible Study, Parsonage
6:00 PM Fusion, Youth Cafe

Weekly Friday Email -- For a full list of announcements, subscribe to the weekly Friday email at downtownlex.org/connect or pick up a printed copy located at the Sanctuary entrances.



downtown

First United Methodist Church

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