

## **Sunday Worship Celebration**

Advent I ~ November 28, 2021 ~ 10:00 AM

*This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.  
In the midst of shopping sprees  
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of all gifts.  
Through the tinsel and the lights  
let's look for the light of the Christmas star.  
In the excitement and confusion, the merry chaos,  
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.  
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem  
and find our kneeling places.*

- "Kneeling in Bethlehem," by Ann Weems

### **Celebrating God's Presence**

**The Prelude –**

Oleksandra Yurchenko

**Greeting –**

Rev. Carl Richter, Sr. Pastor

**Gathering Song #116** (NCH) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1)

**Welcome to Worship –**

**ONE:** We come together on these darker, colder days.  
**MANY:** **We must look to you now, to light our mornings and our evenings.**  
**ONE:** We come seeking renewed hope.  
**MANY:** **We must look to each other for our spirits to be renewed.**  
**ONE:** We come carrying gifts along with the burdens of the year.  
**MANY:** **We now look within to bring tidings of great joy!**

**The Opening Hymn #107** (NCH) "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

**The Gathering Prayer**

Holy One, in this sacred meantime of Advent, guard our hearts and prepare our minds, so that we may wait creatively – not distracted by the obligations of the season. Prepare us, that at your coming we may recognize you and rejoice in your appearing. Give us the courage to pray as people who welcome your presence in our midst. Amen.

### **Celebrating God's Love**

**Greeting One Another with God's Peace –** A wave. A nod. A sign of Peace...

**Lighting the First Advent Candle –** HOPE (insert)

*\*Advent Candle Song #2090* (SB) Verse 1

**Sharing our Journeys...**

*\*You can text prayer requests to 585.857.8267*

- How was the week just passed?
  - Who is in need of our guided energies, thoughts, and prayers?
  - What's happening in the week ahead that we can help with?
- Throughout our time of worship and praise, let's remember these people and situations!*

**Silent Meditation**

**The Lord's Prayer**

### **Celebrating God's Faithfulness & Blessing**

**Guiding our meditation...** Isaiah 7:14-16 (NRSV)

**The Anthem -**

"A Winter's Song"

**The Good News -**

"She Will Have a Son"

**Meditative Music -**

Oleksandra Yurchenko

**Sending Us Forth...**

**ONE:** The season begins with hope. Give hope to one another.  
**MANY:** **We go, bearers of hope and love in the world. Amen.**

**The Hymn of Witness #2092** (SB) "Like a Child"

**"What in God's Name are We Doing?"**

**Sung Response –** "Sing Amen!"

**Postlude**

**We're Glad You're Joining Us!**

Thank you!! If you are new or visiting our church for the first time, you can learn more about our church community by visiting our website at [www.uccwebster.org](http://www.uccwebster.org). You will find information about our denomination and about monthly events and activities here at Webster UCC.

**Texts for the coming week...**

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 1:68-79

Luke 3:1-6

## **O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

## **AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN"**

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald it's dawning,  
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, Behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor to bring all hearts together,  
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever...

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice...

In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
One without voice breaks forth in sing, a lame one leaps in wonder,  
the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder....

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;  
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,  
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

## **LIKE A CHILD**

Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend, like a child and a friend,  
Jesus comes. Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind,  
like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.

Like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet, like a child on the street,  
Jesus comes. Like a child we once knew coming back into view,  
like a child born anew, Jesus comes.

Like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a child here to stay,  
Jesus comes. Like a child we receive all that love can conceive,  
like a child we believe, Jesus comes.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: **Lighting the First Advent Candle** **"HOPE"**

### **CANDLE LITANY –**

**ONE:** The light is surely coming!  
**MANY:** **It's rays reaching out to illuminate injustice and oppression.**

**ONE:** With hope we watch for new growth to be coaxed from the earth.  
**MANY:** **With anticipation we wait for the branch of mercy to shed its lifelessness and sprout new fruit.**

**ONE:** We open our hands to be bearers of Christ's light in the world.  
**MANY:** **We open our hearts to be transformed with the promise of new possibility that is to come.**

**ONE:** As we light this candle, the candle of Hope, we pray that it will brighten our path,  
that our steps inside this church might align with our steps outside in the world.  
**MANY:** **We await the Child of God!**

### **A SONG – "Advent Song"**

*Mary Lu Walker*

**Light the Advent candle, one;  
Now the waiting has begun;  
we have started on our way,  
time to think of Christmas day.**

**Candle, candle, burning bright,  
shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle burning bright,  
fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

### **PRAYER –**

**"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves." May we see the signs springing up amid the roar of confusion, and usher in a new light upon the path of comfort, blessing, compassion and hope to all in need. Amen.**